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Austria S 2.50	Armenia D 1.50	Finland D 1.20
Bahrain D 1.50	Azerbaijan D 1.50	France F 2.50
Belgium B 2.50	Bosnia D 1.50	Germany D 3.50
Bulgaria B 1.50	Canada C 2.50	Greece G 2.50
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Denmark D 1.50	Czechia C 1.50	Hungary H 2.50
Dubai D 1.50	Egypt E 1.50	Iceland I 1.50
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Estonia E 1.50	France F 1.50	Japan J 2.50
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		Luxembourg L 1.50
		Madagascar M 1.50
		Malta M 1.50
		Mexico M 2.50
		Netherlands N 2.50
		Norway N 1.50
		Oman O 1.50
		Pakistan P 1.50
		Poland P 1.50
		Portugal P 1.50
		Romania R 1.50
		Saudi Arabia S 1.50
		Slovakia S 1.50
		Slovenia S 1.50
		Spain S 1.50
		Sweden S 1.50
		Switzerland S 1.50
		Taiwan T 1.50
		Tanzania T 1.50
		Turkey T 1.50
		USA US 2.50
		USSR US 2.50
		Zimbabwe Z 1.50

Brickies, booze and brothels

The Brits in Berlin

G2 with European weather

'It's delicious. I have no worries about eating beefburgers. There is no cause for concern'

John Gummer, Agriculture Minister, speaking in May 1990 as he and his four-year-old daughter, Cordelia, sample beefburgers

New York Stories

Has 'the Oddfather' lost his marbles?

G2 page 4

OnLine

Not just nerds: special Net survey

G2 pages 10/13

Beef warning sparks panic

Many millions in potential danger

Paul Brown, Rebecca Smithers and Sarah Boseley

EMERGENCY measures were promised yesterday to tighten controls on beef production, following the Government's announcement that 10 young people are believed to have been infected by a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease after eating meat infected with "mad cow disease".

Government experts later said that evidence gained in the past few months from deaths among the victims showed that everyone in the United Kingdom who had eaten beef in the decade before 1989 may be in danger. The admission that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) may be transmitted to humans is a complete reversal of the position the Government has stood by for a decade.

There were clear signs of crisis management as first the Health Secretary and then the Agriculture Minister

delivered statements to the Commons.

John Major was told of the new findings from scientists on the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) on Monday, Downing Street said. They prompted an hour-long unscheduled meeting of the Cabinet yesterday morning.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, told MPs that although there remained "no scientific proof" that BSE can be transmitted to man by beef, scientists had concluded that "the most likely explanation" for 10 cases involving a new strain of CJD was exposure to BSE before the offal ban in 1989.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, swiftly followed with a statement detailing fresh safeguards for slaughterhouses and animal feeds to ensure that the risk to humans was "minimised".

In the absence of detailed guidelines for people wary of about beef, he assured MPs that "British beef can be eaten with confidence" and that he would still do so.

Beef producers, burger chains and supermarkets insisted they needed more details of the findings before they could comment, and stressed their quality controls. The Meat and Livestock Commission said there was nothing to show that BSE had appeared in muscle tissue, as opposed to offal and bone.

A junior Scottish minister, the Earl of Lindsey, said the Government had to bear some blame for failing to pay farmers full compensation for slaughtering infected animals in the late 1980s. "We possibly unwittingly allowed the temptation that some farmers may have succumbed to," he told peers.

Ministers sought to assure the public that eating beef



John Niven, a farmer in Glogaburn, Perthshire, cast down by yesterday's government announcement. The Scottish beef trade is worth £500m a year

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

had become progressively safer since the controls introduced in 1988. These were imposed in response to the appearance of BSE in cattle that had, in the early 80s, consumed feed containing the brains of sheep suffering from scrapie - another form of the disease.

However, ministers opted for the formula that the risk in eating beef was extremely small, rather than that there was no risk at all.

Mr Dorrell and Mr Hogg said the risk from beef was now "extremely small". Controls to strip out and destroy offal which might be infected with BSE were begun in 1989 and have been progressively improved. Even tighter controls were brought in yesterday in an attempt to reassure the public that the multi-million-pound British beef industry was a safe one.

All 10 people identified as having a new, human form of

BSE were aged under 41 and had been fallen in the past few months.

The acknowledgment of a possible large-scale public health problem came during a press conference with Seac scientists after the Commons statements. Professor John Pattison, head of the Government's committee, said doctors were being urged to look out for the disease. "We have asked for intense surveillance so we can measure the scale

of the problem over the coming months and years."

The main concern is for the millions who ate beef in the 1980s before the controls were brought in. Prof Pattison said the incubation period of the new disease was typically five to 15 years. That was why the first cases of the new illness had not shown up until 1994, when six were diagnosed. There were four more in 1995. The new illness was known only in the United Kingdom,

the only place which suffered from an epidemic of "mad cow disease".

Because of the age of those who have died, SEAC will consider over the weekend, at the government's request,

whether young people may be more susceptible.

Sketch, page 2; History of a disease, page 4; Leader comment, page 6; Pig in the middle, page 9



THE VICTIMS: Depression, tremors, loss of balance and a dreadful decline

Vicky Rimmer

VICKY RIMMER (right), aged 18, a kennel worker from Connaught Quay, Clwyd, North Wales, has been in a vegetative coma at Deeside Community Hospital for the past three years. She was the first known teenage victim of CJD when she fell ill in 1993.

The once vibrant schoolgirl does not move and has lost all powers of recognition and speech. Her family has consistently blamed her condition on meat infected with BSE, specifically hamburgers.

She was still at school when she began to feel tremors in her hands and to lose her balance.

Her symptoms, in common with other CJD sufferers, grew progressively worse.

After being referred to hospital, she underwent biopsy tests, which were carried out by scientists from the CJD surveillance unit at Edinburgh.

Her mother, Beryl, was eventually taken aside by a



neurologist, who said that he was "terribly sorry" to have to inform her that her daughter had contracted CJD. Shortly afterwards she slipped into a coma.

Every year since then, her family have held a party for Vicky's friends at her hospital bedside on her birthday.

"I have always believed that beefburgers caused CJD in Vicky, and I hold the Government responsible for the way in which they have tried to deceive the public," Mrs Rimmer said yesterday.

Peter Hall

PETER HALL (right), a vegetarian, of Chestle Street, Co Durham, was 20 when he died last month after suffering from CJD for two years. His parents claim he contracted the disease before giving up meat.

An environmental studies student at Sunderland University, he was a keen musician with a heavy metal group but first showed signs of depression around Christmas 1994. His hands trembled, he lost his footing coming down stairs and swayed unsteadily when he walked.

He soon appeared to lose all co-ordination and much of his short-term memory.

Within five months of the first symptoms, he was confined to a wheelchair. Transferred to hospitals in Newcastle and then a local care home, he continued to deteriorate. In the final stages, thin and suffering from dementia, he contracted a series of chest infections.

Throughout his illness,



the doctors had dismissed suggestions that he was suffering from CJD.

The results of his post-mortem, proving that Peter died of CJD, only came through late on Tuesday night, on the eve of the Government's announcement.

Derek Hall, his father, said: "Hopefully public opinion will force the Government to do something to stop infected meat getting into the food chain. We believe infected beefburgers killed our son and something has to be done."

Ann Richardson

ANN RICHARDSON (right), a health care assistant and mother of one, from Huyton, Merseyside, was 41 when she died in January this year, two years after being diagnosed as suffering from depression.

Over those two years she gradually lost co-ordination, and she became bedridden. Her husband, Ronny, always believed her condition had been contracted through eating BSE infected meat.

The final proof that she had been suffering from CJD came only yesterday in a letter from the medical surveillance unit at Edinburgh.

The note confirmed that in her case there was no genetic history of similar degenerative diseases.

"The two years of hell we both went through was made worse because the Government did not show us the full picture," Mr Richardson said yesterday. "All along the Govern-



ment denied a link between beef and the disease when we knew it was the only way she could have contracted it."

"My wife died from CJD and medical evidence proves she was not born with it, so where did she get it from? Why weren't we told there might be a link?"

"If the Government had been up front, we would have stopped eating beef. They kept it under wraps to protect the beef industry."

Profiles by Owen Boucott and Alan Watkins

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Britain

Average phone bills should fall from £50 to £30 a quarter by the end of the century under proposed new price controls.

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World News

The US Congress seems likely to crack down on Louis Farrakhan, the fiery cleric who leads the Nation of Islam.

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Mooreover

What we are seeing is a re-ordering of how most people choose to live their lives in a system that has not understood.

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Sport

Three-and-a-half years after playing his last England game, Mark Wright, the Liverpool defender, looks set to return.

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Would you like to be a writer?

by NICK DAVIS

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. Then there are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

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Sketch

Nothing rare in steak debate



Simon Hoggart

THE Government has learned some humility over Mad Cow Disease. There was a time when ministers would have wanted to greet the latest BSE scare by opening the dispatch box and pulling out stacks of burgers to force down the throats of synoptic backbenchers.

Yesterday Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was calm, measured and cautious. "We must not over-react," he said, "just as we must not under-react."

Review

Daft hypotheses deconstructed

Robert Yates

Modern Problems in Science Bloomsbury Theatre

THE problems are both the name and the business of the act, a trio of improvisers from Chicago who deal in unlikely hypotheses. The "Sixth of Turin may be used to predict baseball scores", say, or "John, Paul, George and Ringo are the fundamental units of the genetic code."

Advertisement for Hamilton Direct Bank, featuring a large '13.8% APR' graphic and text: 'At only 13.8% APR it's easy to see what our lowest rate ever could do for you.'

Regulator squeezes 'excess profit' in 4-year regime that pegs price movement to inflation less 7pc

BT told to cut phone bills

AVERAGE phone bills should fall from £50 to £30 a quarter by the end of the century under proposed new price controls for British Telecom published yesterday.



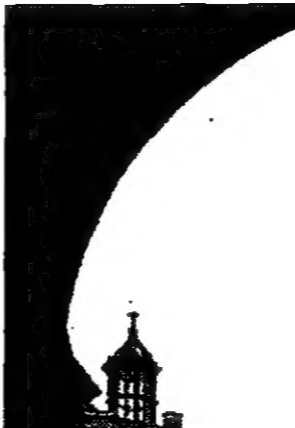
Sir Patrick Sheehy, quit as chairman three months ago

August 1997 prices be cut by 5 and 9 per cent below the rate of inflation. Mr Cruickshank, director-general of OfTel, said that by 2001 BT would be making excessive operating profits on the regulated part of its business of about £1.5 billion a year.



Sir Richard Doll: will oppose move fiercely

By the time the new controls started in August 1997, cable companies would cover 60 per cent of the population and Ionica would have launched radio links. John Butler, BT's head of regulatory affairs, said the regulator was being wildly optimistic as to what could be achieved.



Edward Pilkington

OfTel yesterday put forward several options including reducing the price review period from four to two years. However, Mr Cruickshank said he favoured a "steady as we go" approach with prices pegged at about 7 per cent below inflation for four years.



Sir Keith Peters, Cambridge Regius Professor of Physics, led opposition to the scheme at a meeting of academic staff on Tuesday.

The regulator is stepping up pressure on BT by insisting that the new price controls be part of a package which gives him sweeping powers to crack down on anti-competitive behaviour. BT is adamant that the new powers should be offset by checks and balances, including an appeal procedure. It has indicated it would be prepared to risk the Monopolies Commission investigation which would be triggered by a rejection of the OfTel package.



Sir Patrick Sheehy, who retired as BAT chairman three months ago, was unavailable for comment.

tougher stance in its dealings with OfTel, and he noted that the directors would have to take a final decision on the package just before the group's annual meeting. A spokeswoman for the National Consumer Council said: "It is excellent news that the regulator has not buckled under pressure from the industry to lift the price cap. But the extent to which prices will fall will depend upon how BT juggles prices within the price cap."

Parent killers face death

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

LYLE and Erik Menendez, the Beverly Hills rich boys who shot dead their parents, have been found guilty of murder by a jury in Los Angeles in their second trial, six years and seven months after the killings.

The verdict, which found "special circumstances" in that the brothers conspired and had laid in wait, could bring the death penalty, to be decided at a special hearing. Otherwise they get 25 years in prison.

Hollywood music firm executive José Menendez, aged 45, and his former beauty queen wife Kitty, aged 47, were found in pools of blood in their mansion after being shot 15 times with 12-bore shotguns. At first Lyle, now aged 28, and Erik, 25, suggested it was a mafia execution, and went on a million dollar spending spree. They bought a Rolls-Royce to fund the funeral, invested in a restaurant and acquired flashy sports cars.

But only weeks before the first trial opened in 1993, they admitted to the murders in what became known as the "abuse excuse". They claimed that their father, with their mother's knowledge, sexually abused them through their childhood and with Erik into his teenage years.

They threatened to go public with the charges, a threat that created such tension that they were frightened for their own lives, and killed off of this fear. The prosecution argued that it was simple greed — the brothers wanted the \$10 million (£10 million) fortune that became known as the "abuse excuse". They claimed that their father, with their mother's knowledge, sexually abused them through their childhood and with Erik into his teenage years.

Separate juries for each brother were unable to agree on a verdict in the first trial, which ended in January, 1994. In the second trial the brothers had a much more difficult time presenting their abuse excuse. Judge Stanley Weisberg decided that the defence had shown insufficient evidence that the young men had killed out of duress and fear.

This precluded Lyle Menendez from repeating his tearful testimony from the first trial, a performance that had a significant impact on his jury. That jury was divided, with the women seeking a conviction for manslaughter only, and the men demanding a murder verdict. This time one jury of eight men and four women judged both cases.

Cambridge row over tobacco sponsorship

CAMBRIDGE has become the latest university in controversy over commercial sponsorship after it agreed to allow the world's second largest international tobacco company to endorse a professorship.

A plan to set up the Sir Patrick Sheehy Chair of International Relations, named after the former chairman of BAT Industries, makers of Benson and Hedges, Silk Cut and Lucky Strike cigarettes, has aroused fury among doctors and health campaigners. Last year the company made record profits from tobacco sales of £1.56 billion.

With smoking on the wane in the UK and other western countries, the company has shifted its focus to new markets such as China and Russia. More than half of the 670 billion cigarettes it sold last year went to Asian and Latin-American countries.

Sir Keith Peters, Cambridge Regius Professor of Physics, led opposition to the scheme at a meeting of academic staff on Tuesday. He referred to estimates that worldwide deaths caused by smoking would rise within 30 years to 10 million annually.



Cambridge: smoking sponsorship controversy catches fire

Keith Ball, of the anti-smoking campaign, ASH, said he was appalled Cambridge was even considering the plan. "Why is one of our most prestigious universities aligning itself with merchants of death?"

Other protests have come from the Duke of Gloucester, who is chairman of the Cancer Research Campaign, and Sir Walter Bodmer, head of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, who slammed the proposed donation as a "cynical public relations exercise".

The university is to make a final decision on whether to accept the BAT endowment in May. If it agrees to go ahead, opponents are expected to force a ballot of all teaching staff later that month. A spokesman for BAT denied it was encouraging smoking in the developing world and rejected claims that its sponsorship schemes were manipulative.

PM attacks 'patronising Labour rubbish'

Major contrasts Tory 'choice' with Opposition 'we know best'

Michael White and John Carvel

JOHN MAJOR yesterday staked his claim to a fifth Tory term in government by contrasting his own underdog's commitment to "opportunity and choice" for ordinary voters with what he disparaged as Labour's condescending and do-gooding attitudes.

He called such attitudes "patronising rubbish." The real political divide was between opportunity and politically correct opportunism — "undermining opportunity by destroying choice and independence in favour of a patronising 'we know best' attitude," he said.

But I don't view people without position or money from some lofty pedestal. I am a much-travelled address to the Westminster think-tank, the Prime Minister made educational opportunity the centrepiece of his appeal. Although promising further reforms, he said: "Evolution, not revolution, is our watchword." There was no commitment to go beyond Education Secretary Gillian Shephard's announcement in January that schools may be allowed to select up to 15 per cent of pupils without government approval — an increase on the present 10 per cent.

The Prime Minister also attacked familiar targets like the European social chapter as a destroyer of jobs, extolled home ownership, and promised that ministers will soon produce a solution for families who have to sell homes to pay for long-term care for themselves or elderly relatives. "We're looking closely at how we can help them meet those costs," said Mr Major, who renewed his pledge to abolish inheritance tax. Some advisers believe he is poised to endorse a scheme which would require people to sell their homes, but allow them to keep the capital for their children, using only the interest to pay care bills.

Mr Major spoke after a special Cabinet session had heard the party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, lay out the prospects for the coming election campaign and the "feel-good" themes ministers must trumpet if the Tories are to regain up to 30 points of voter support lost to Labour. The Prime Minister's speech attempted to touch emotional chords, with attacks on Tony Blair's revamped Labour Party, little different from Old Labour, in Mr Major's view. He singled out "progressive education" — self-expression and no tests — as a "crippling folly" which had betrayed the very children it was meant to help.

Table titled 'UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS' comparing Hamilton Direct Bank with other lenders. Columns include Lender, APR, 48 monthly repayments, Total amount payable, and What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank. Hamilton Direct Bank offers a 13.8% APR, saving £254.88 on a £7,000 loan compared to other lenders.

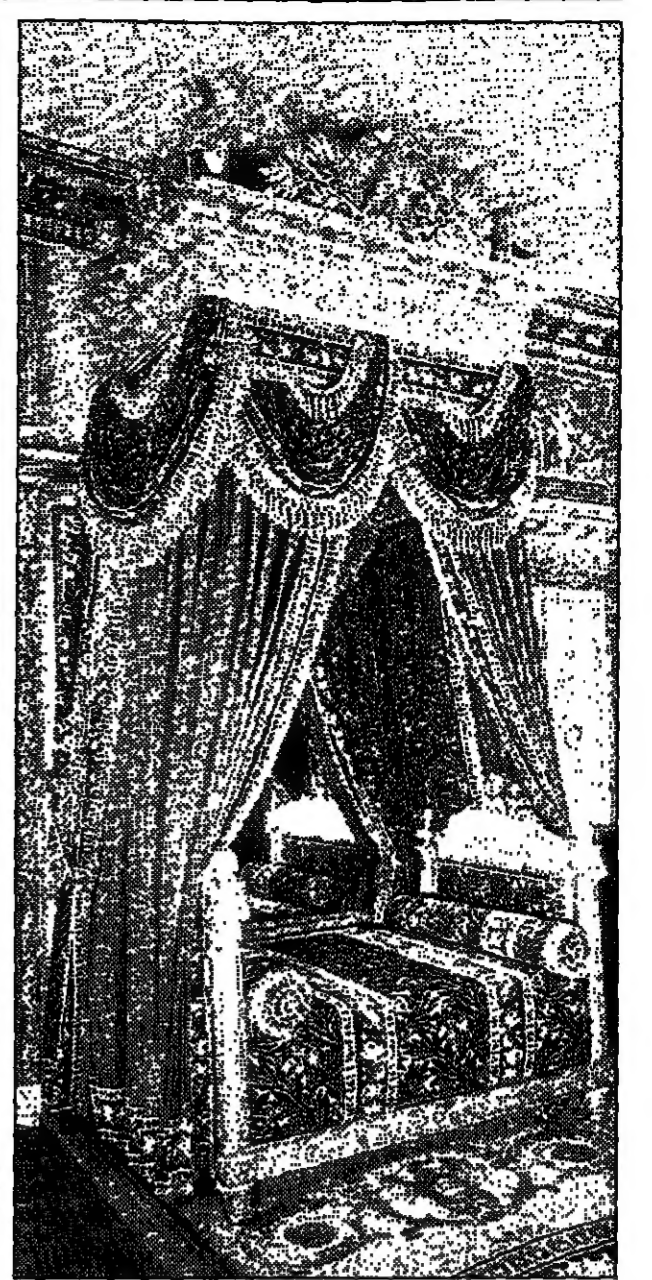
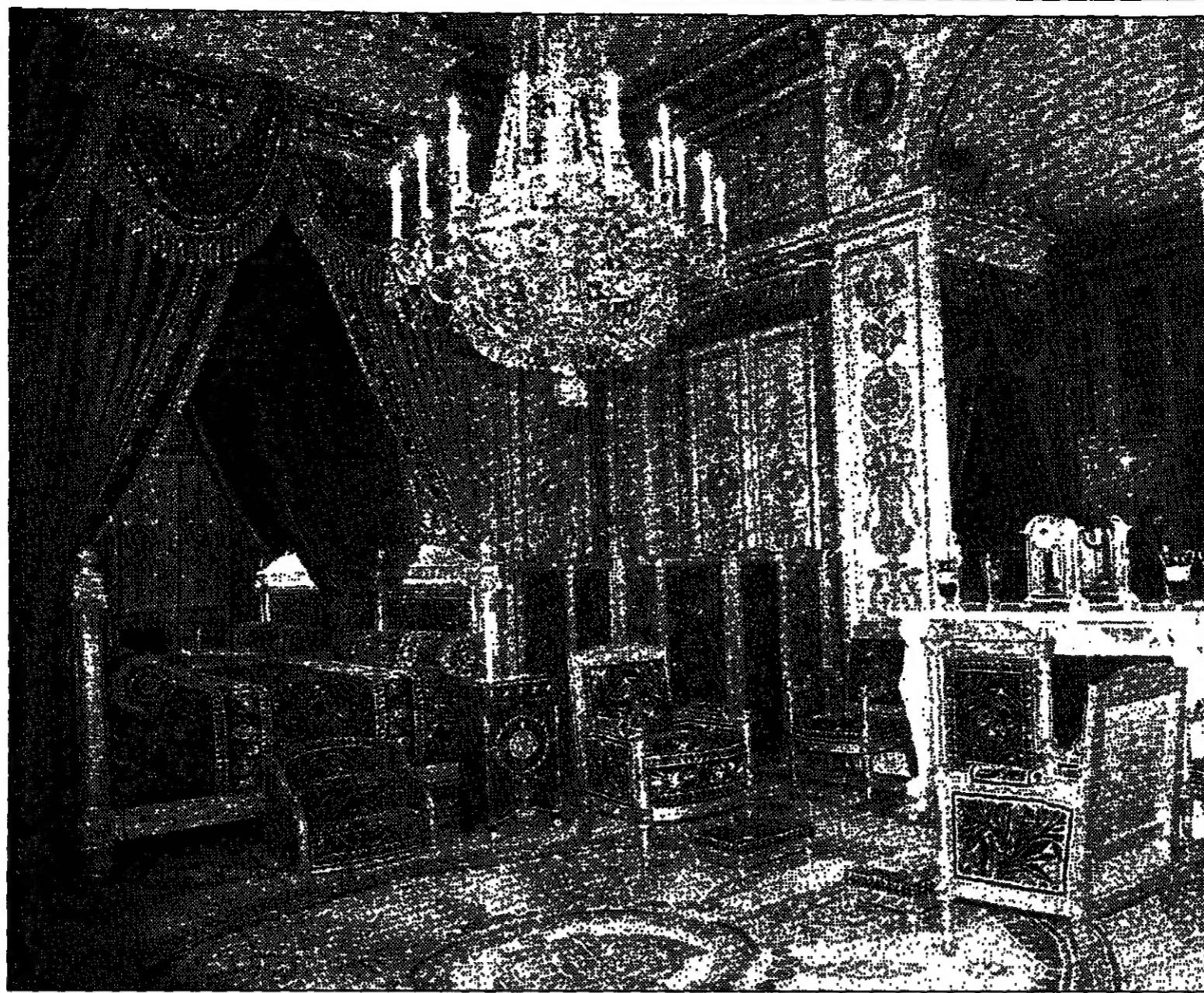
You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any reason* with Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc and take advantage of our attractive fixed rates: 13.8% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 - £10,000. 16.9% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 - £4,999. TO APPLY CALL FREE ON 0800 30 3000. Quoting ref: 91011/250

e bills



Twenty-five year labour of love sees royal chateau which saw the rise and fall of Bonaparte restored to its original splendour

Paul Webster in Fontainebleau



Not tonight... Lavish furnishings were used in the renovation of the emperor's sleeping room (left), and a gilded imperial eagle was restored above his magnificent bed

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: JACQUES BRINON

ANDRE Malraux's dream of restoring the royal chateau in the centre of this city south of Paris will finally come true this weekend when Napoleon Bonaparte's renovated apartments are again opened to the public.

Completion of the suite of six rooms is the culmination of 25 years of restoration work on the chateau under a plan instituted by the writer Malraux, one of his last acts as President De Gaulle's culture minister from 1959-69.

The chateau "has links with all French sovereigns since St Louis in the 13th century". Amaury Lefebvre, the chateau's curator, told a VIP tour before tomorrow's opening.

He said the rooms "are marked by some of the most important events of the First Empire, although Napoleon only stayed here for a total of 170 days between 1804 and 1814". Bonaparte took over a

suite of private rooms used by Louis XVI and met Pope Pius VII there in 1804 just before his coronation as emperor.

But other visits by Bonaparte coincided with disasters, including the aftermath of defeat in Russia and preparations for exile in Elba. In April 1814 he signed an abdication document before officially taking leave of his army in the chateau's courtyard.

The imperial waiting rooms, bathroom and private drawing rooms are sumptuously furnished, but they look almost ordinary in comparison to the emperor's bedroom and private office. In these rooms, rare faded tapestry and

chair coverings have been re-woven in their original colours and a huge gilded imperial eagle has been restored above a magnificent bed. "It is difficult to assess the cost because it has been spread over 25 years, most in the last eight years, but even the woven decorations over the bed are worth more than £1,000 a metre," Mr Lefebvre said.

Howard wants 3-year minimum for 3-time burglars

Plans would demand 12 jails and add 10,000 to prison population

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

BURGLARS convicted a third time will be automatically sentenced to three years in prison under US-style plans for stiff minimum sentences to be revealed by the Home Secretary shortly.

Confirmation that judges' discretion in sentencing some of the 13,000 burglars who are imprisoned each year is to be limited by the introduction of minimum sentences will reopen Michael Howard's debate with the senior judiciary, which has run over

the past five months. Home Office ministers, Lord Widcombe and David Maclean will meet the Parole Board today to hear their concerns.

In response to complaints that sentences are already too tough, Mr Howard says: "I've got a simple answer. If you don't want the time, don't do the crime."

The expected three-year minimum for burglars is double the average sentence of 17.6 months currently handed down by the courts to those who have 10 or more previous burglary convictions.

Ministers hope to publish the white paper before the Commons rises for the Easter Recess in a fortnight.

It is expected to say that the two proposals, new minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers, will add about 10,000 a year to the current prison population of 53,400.

The extra 12 prisons needed to house them could cost up to £1.1 billion.

In the face of these costs the Treasury is insisting that Mr Howard announces that the white paper sentencing proposals be phased in over several years.

His plan to give automatic "discretionary life" sentences to rapists and other violent criminals who reoffend is likely to be adopted first as it would not have an immediate impact on the prison population.

The white paper will also propose: That judges be given the

discretion to decide whether time spent by the prisoner in custody on remand should count towards the final sentence, dependent on whether the accused has "strung out" his or her defence.

This will meet concerns of the Lord Chancellor and the Home Office to develop sentence discounts and plea bargaining to end the backlog of cases before the courts.

The introduction of "honesty into sentencing" by abolishing automatic remission of up to 50 per cent of a sentence. At present most inmates are released after serving only half their sentence.

This will be restricted to around 15 to 20 per cent remission, which will have to be earned by good behaviour inside. It will require a huge expansion of the prison discipline system.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, is expected to issue a "practice direction" to judges to ensure that their sentencing takes account of the abolition of early release.

Council tax bills to rise by 6pc

James Melke Community Affairs Editor

COUNCIL tax payers in England face 6.2 per cent increases in their bills next year — twice the level of inflation — as ministers make them bear more of the cost of local government.

Levies for two adults living in a band D property — homes worth between £68,000 and £88,000 — will average £57, the Government said yesterday.

Rises in inner London will be 10.4 per cent, outer London 5.1 per cent, other metropolitan areas 6.8 per cent and shire counties 5.9 per cent.

authority tax hikes. He said band D charges were £225 a year, £119 a week, higher in Labour-run councils, and £12 a week higher in Liberal Democrat councils.

The Tories used those councils where one party was responsible for setting all the council tax, disregarding two-tier areas where Labour or the Liberal Democrats were in control of one tier.

Figures to be published by the influential Local Government Chronicle tomorrow, including authorities where the Tories are the largest single party and where they do not control both tiers, suggest narrower differences — of just over £134 a year at band D.

Council tax bills might rise by 6.6 per cent in Labour areas, £521.90 compared with £525.48, because typically they have fewer ex-

pensive houses. Labour's Frank Dobson covered the "ludicrous" system that determined the amounts local authorities were given in grants and how much they needed to raise through council tax.

The "Tory funding fiddle" meant nearly all Westminster council tax bills were met by the Government, leaving the authority to levy the lowest council tax, at £295 for band D payers.

"If every council got the same help per head of population, 94 per cent would not have to collect council tax at all. They'd be able to pay out rebates instead."

The row overshadowed publication by the Audit Commission of league tables for council services last year.

The commission's figures confirmed wide disparity in council services based on need and geography.

Mr Dobson said the council tax rises were "so driven by grant considerations as to be not much use. The Government has undoubtedly rigged these."

David Rendel, for the Liberal Democrats, also condemned the help given the Tory London boroughs of Wandsworth, and Kensington and Chelsea, while pointing out that Westminster, even with its grant, had set a tax far lower than its chief executive deemed prudent.

Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said: "Overall, most councils provide a good service at reasonable cost but there are some who fall well short of what by most standards would be seen as desirable."

Romance makes spendthrifts of post-festive pennypinchers

Larry Elliott Economics Editor

LOVERS once content to tussle it with flowers are now more likely to say it with plastic as they splash out on Valentine's Day for a candlelit meal à deux or a night of passion in a posh hotel.

A dozen red roses or a big box of chocolates are no longer lavish enough on February 14 for Britain's new

generation of romantics, according to a report into spending patterns released yesterday. It found consumers racking up debt in restaurants, clubs and hotels at a time when they were cutting back on all other spending.

Figures from the Credit Card Research Group showed that only entertainment and hotels escaped the February belt-tightening that always follows the extravagance of Christmas and the New Year

sales. Spending in hotels was 10 per cent higher than in January and spending on entertainment up by 3 per cent, the group said. It lobbied on behalf of the main credit and debit card issuers.

Data from the Government yesterday indicated that retail sales — which exclude restaurants and hotels — were up 0.6 per cent in February, after a fall of a similar size in January. Elizabeth Phillips, director

of the group, said: "People tend to be more frugal in February, but it seems that Britain is turning into a nation of romantics." The only other explanation was that men remained as stingy as ever, and the surge in card spending was due to women taking advantage of the leap year to woo their reluctant boyfriends on February 29.

High street sales rebound, Notebook, page 11

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover — at a budget price.

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This tribe of post-industrial gypsies inhabit a netherworld of drifters and dreamers, of wild ambition and burnt-out despair, of generosity and betrayal, of sharks and scams and easy violence. Fortunes, large and small, are being made and lost on what is Europe's and perhaps the world's biggest building site.

Parent killers face death

ish

300 30 300

Scientists yet to discover how disease is transmitted to humans • Consumer confidence paramount, says NFU

Twists and turns on trail of a killer

Since 1985, BSE has spread to mice, cats and ostriches

Tim Radford
Science Editor

IN 1985, a previously healthy British dairy cow suddenly became edgy and unco-ordinated, then aggressive and unpredictable.

Its brain was found to be riddled with holes, like a sponge. The disease was given a name in 1986 and by 1987, there were 20 known cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE or Mad Cow Disease in Britain. By the summer of 1988, there were 731 reported cases on 820 farms in Britain and the Channel Islands.

Scientists already knew four things about BSE. It was remarkably like scrapie, which had only been known to occur in sheep and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease or CJD which worldwide kills about one person per million a year. It was also like mink encephalopathy and kuru, a disease of a group of tribesmen in Papua-New Guinea with rituals like human brains. All these diseases are marked by

'The open window for infection to pass to man from 1985 to 1989 was closed'

tel-tale loss of co-ordination and degeneration of the brain. The Ministry of Agriculture made BSE a notifiable disease, at the same time declaring that there was no risk to humans. Thus begins a pattern of ambivalent signals which continued until yesterday afternoon.

Infected cattle were slaughtered and the sale of all beef thymus, spleen, tonsils, spinal cord and brain was banned. But ministers repeatedly assured the public and foreign markets that the risk of transmission to humans was negligible.

Campaigners however said that no one understood how the BSE was transmitted. Secondly, the eruption of the disease was linked with the practice of feeding cattle with the treated carcasses of other dead ruminants such as sheep. There had been a change in the status of the treatment of this gruesome protein supplement, and the guess was that sheep scrapie had somehow made the jump to cows.

But if a disease jumped from one species to another, campaigners argued, then surely it could leap to humans.

Over the next few years, the disease progressed by leaps and bounds. It leaped into thousands of head of cattle, and it bounded into zoo and farm and parkland creatures such as elk, mice, marmosets, pigs, antelopes, kudu, oryx, eland, cheetah, puma, ocelot, domestic cat and even ostrich.

Many of these were given feed which might have been from infected carcasses. As a variant of BSE appeared in more species, it became increasingly difficult for minis-

ters and scientists to say that there was negligible risk to humans.

The Department of Health's CJD surveillance unit in Edinburgh, Western general hospital, has pointed out that although there seemed to be a high proportion of farm workers who died of CJD in recent years, the proportion of ministers of religion was even higher.

There had been, until very recently, no abattoir workers with the disease, although these would have been most at risk. And even more confusingly, the one-in-a-million incidence of CJD seemed to be the same everywhere scientists looked: in Europe, where there was no BSE but where people ate beef, and in India, where cows are sacred and many are vegetarians.

Even now, scientists do not understand how the disease is transmitted. The favoured candidate has been an infectious protein called a prion which converts normal protein molecules into dangerous ones by inducing them to change shape. But not every body is confident about prions: it is still possible that an as-yet-to-be-detected virus is involved.

There was also the problem about the rate of the growth of the disease. In 1984 there had been more than 50 cases. By November 1985, there had been only 39.

But by November 1995, things had started to change. Researchers reported in the British Medical Journal on the same number of cases, including 20 teenagers, and four dairy farmers. One of the researchers, Sheila Gore of the Medical Research Council's biostatistics unit at Cambridge, concluded the connection was "more than happenstance."

Steve Dealler, a microbiologist at Burnley general hospital and secretary of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Research Campaign has been pointing out since 1988 that for every cow destroyed because of BSE, there may be hundreds slaughtered and sold to butchers before the symptoms have developed. On his reckoning, by the year 2000 the British could have eaten 1.8 million infected beasts.

Yesterday the Government shifted its position. Dr Dealler was not satisfied. The evidence had been available much earlier, he said.

"The epidemiology was done by Sheila Gore and printed last year in the British Medical Journal: that showed the number of cases in farmers had increased, as had the number of cases in teenagers: these cases were so unlikely it could not have happened by chance."

John Bourne, director of the Institute for Animal Health at Compton in Berkshire, said last night: "There was an open window for infection to pass to man in the period 1985 to 1989. That window was then closed. There may have been odd chinks in that window, but that has now been rectified."

Where's the beef?

As well as beef being used in the manufacture of pies, sausages and burgers, beef products (including gelatine and suet, which can still be made from cattle vertebrae) are found in unexpected foods some of which are listed below. There is no suggestion that these products contain BSE-infected material.

Foods which contain beef, beef bone stock, mechanically recovered meat, or suet.

- Chicken gravy granules
- Stuffing mixes
- Frankfurters
- Christmas pudding
- Salami

Foods which usually contain unspecified gelatine or animal fats which could come from beef

- Baby food - eg chicken casserole, mixed vegetables, spaghetti and sausage
- Cakes
- Biscuits - eg digestive, ginger nuts
- Sweets - eg fruit pastilles, wine gums, liqueur allsorts
- Tinned and frozen puddings
- Chilled desserts - eg fromage frais
- Jellies
- Supplements - eg vitamin capsules, cod liver oil

Source: Food Commission

History of BSE

March 1993 Dairy farmer Peter Warhurst dies from CJD

July 1993 Dairy farmer Mark Duncan Templeman dies from CJD

May 1995 Stephen Churchill, aged 19, dies from CJD

September 1995 Unnamed farmer revealed to have died from CJD

November 1995 Michael Bowen, 29, dies six weeks after giving birth; CJD suspected

February 1996 Leonard Franklin and Peter Hall, aged 20, die from CJD

March 1996 Government announces strain of CJD is linked to BSE

November 1988 BSE identified

April 1988 Government appoints Southwood Committee to assess significance of BSE

June 1988 Southwood Committee makes immediate recommendations: infected animals to be destroyed; milk from infected animals to be disposed of; further research to be commissioned

August 1988 Government orders slaughter of all BSE-infected animals

February 1989 Southwood Report published. "It is most unlikely that BSE will have any implications for human health," it says

May 1990 CJD surveillance unit established in Edinburgh



Beef sales, tonnes

Nov 1995	\$1,500
Dec 1995	65,200
Jan 1996	69,658
Feb 1996	72,767

Source: Meat & Livestock Commission



John Gummer (top), and his daughter demonstrating the safety of beef. Jean Wake (above left), and Michelle Bowen, possible victims of the newly discovered strain of CJD

Question of taste

'It is quite clear to me our beef is safe. My own family eats beef and I have no worry about that. There is no evidence anywhere in the world of BSE passing from animals to humans'

— John Gummer
Agriculture Minister
January 1990

'There is currently no scientific evidence that BSE can be transmitted to humans or that eating beef causes CJD in humans. That issue is not in question'

— John Major
December 1995

'BSE is not transmissible to humans and that in any event our controls are effective enough to prevent the infective agent getting into the human food chain'

— Douglas Hogg
Agriculture Minister
December 1995

Upbeat mood gives way to forebodings for farmers

Industry

Owen Bowcott

UNTIL 3.30pm yesterday, the beef cattle industry was in buoyant mood, confident it could persuade the public to return to lean steaks and minced meat.

Consumption of beef per head of population has fallen by more than 15 per cent in 10 years, but farmers insisted this was due to higher prices and the decline of the Sunday family roast.

The mood was upbeat among the thousands of exhibitors and visitors at the Beef '96 fair, held last week at the National Agricultural Centre's showground, in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

"The presentation from the deputy chief veterinary officer who was extremely optimistic about BSE," said Richard Sibley, secretary of the British Cattle Veterinary Association. "People were feeling buoyant and concentrating on the prospects of producing quality meat for the supermarket shelves. The disease is going from herds. From an animal health point of view it's been a successful campaign. The outbreak is under control."

By contrast, reaction to the Commons statement yesterday mingled resentment at another round of "scare stories" with deeper forebodings.

"The measures announced by the Government and the public's reaction to them will have serious implications for all cattle farmers," warned Sir David Nash, the president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU).

"Consumer confidence in the quality of the meat people eat is paramount. The NFU has been calling for the Government to publish all the advice it has received from its experts. This is the only way public confidence in beef can be maintained."

Though the incidence of BSE infected cattle has slipped from a peak of 1,300 cases a week in 1991 to around 300 a week, the revelation that there appears to be a new, human form of the disease threatens to suppress beef consumption further.

"It's not very positive for us," said a spokesman for ABP, a company which owns slaughterhouses in York, Scot-

land and Shrewsbury. "We are concerned about the implications. There was a problem with sales in December [coinciding with the last crop of BSE stories], but there has been a good recovery since."

Most producers were keeping their heads down. The Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, which represents most slaughterhouses, and Midland Meat Packers, another large player in the industry, stayed silent.

The Meat and Livestock Commission last night said it could not calculate the losses suffered through BSE. Total beef sales to the consumer in 1994 amounted to £1.86 billion. In November and December last year, they fell by 17 per cent. They have recovered since by around 5 per cent.

A commission spokesman

huddled. If there is a problem, it's been forced on others outside our influence."

In Germany, the health ministry said it would consider the developments. Boun is embroiled in a row with the European Commission after five regions banned British beef. They have been accused of breaching the principle of a free market.

One Kent farmer, Brian Frith, whose cattle have never had a case of BSE, said the Government should have taken early claims of risks to humans more seriously.

"If the Government had said they didn't know if there were any risks to humans and had set up a proper programme of slaughtering infected herds and issuing lists of safe farms, there wouldn't have been such a problem."

Public 'left confused'

Consumers

Sarah Beeseley

THE Consumers' Association accused the Government yesterday of failing to calm public anxieties about BSE and beef, as the supermarkets and burger chains did their best to play down the significance of the government statement.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) had given "blanket reassurances that beef is safe to eat, but consumers remain unconvinced," said Laura Simons, the association's senior public affairs officer.

This assurance had now been challenged. "Consumers want and need to know if they should eat beef. We need more information to cut through current confusion."

The association called for more and better labelling of meat products and for the results of research on BSE to be publicly available.

Up to 10,000 schools have taken beef off the menu, or offer alternatives, according to the Local Authority Caterers' Association (LACA), which last December advised its members, in response to parents' concern, to substitute pork and poultry dishes for beefburgers and beef sausages in school canteens.

Its spokesman, Arnold Fowell, said it expected a strong reaction to yesterday's announcement in those schools still serving beef.

"The level of concern had

fallen," said Mr Fowell. "We couldn't believe what we were hearing this morning."

The burger chains and supermarkets rested their case on the quality of their beef. "All meat sold by Sainsbury's is sourced from approved suppliers, who are visited regularly by qualified food technologists to ensure that our controls and standards are properly and rigorously enforced," said George Spriguel, the chain's director of scientific services.

McDonald's said it used only "prime cuts of boneless beef — lean flank and forequarter — in which BSE has never been detected."

The Beefeater chain of 265 restaurants said they used steaks only from Argentina and Australia, "which have never had a case of BSE".

Gloom over cattle country

Producers

Erlend Clouston

IN the kitchen at Glogburn farmhouse, the faces grew in length with the Health Secretary's speech. "I didn't expect anything else," snorted 64-year-old John Niven as Mr Dorrell explained to Radio 5 listeners why it was, well, just about totally safe to eat meat. "You get to the stage where you're fed up with it," groaned his son Ian.

Across the yard at the Perthshire farm, 27 hairy bullocks munched their hay, oblivious to the fact that their value to the Niven household had probably just plummeted. Last November's BSE scare

knocked 26p a kilo off the deadweight price of Glogburn beef, which multiplies up to £100 per steer. Unless the public shows unwonted resilience to lurid headlines, the same is likely to happen again, which, when you're selling 250 cattle a year, has a devastating effect on income.

"If they can't give a definite answer they should shut up," grumbled John, whose father first took the lease of 450-acre Glogburn in 1924.

Adding to the Niven's sense of injustice is the fact Scotland, for whom the beef trade is worth £500 million annually, appeared to be conquering BSE. In the first quarter of 1995 there were 394 reported cases; this year it is down to 41. "I don't know of anyone around here who's had it," protested John.

So how many drivers were killed on the roads each year? "If you're not going to catch anything you'll have to live in a glass bowl," Ian snuffed as four-year-old daughter Annabel, one of seven mouths dependent on decent beef prices, crammed a homemade cheese biscuit to her face.

Down the road at the 140-year-old Perth auction mart, the world's biggest weekly processor of pedigree beef, the same philosophy applied. Its restaurant menu defiantly offered a £4.95 chef's special of steak pie. "Och, it does cross your mind, but look at salmonella and eggs," shrugged cook Joan Youngson. "We do offer a choice of fish and vegetarian, but the majority go for meat. Everybody's days are numbered, anyway."

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WHITEHALL PURGE: Ombudsman warns of more workload mistakes amid benefit staff slimdown, Treasury losses and HSE alarm

Cuts to cost 21,000 social security jobs

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

MORE than 21,000 jobs will be axed under the Government's drive to cut social security running costs by a quarter over the next three years, it emerged yesterday.

Official plans show the staffing complement of the Department of Social Security and its agencies will fall from 100,000 to fewer than 79,000 by 1998/99. The figures reflect an unprecedented jobs purge across Whitehall. Earlier this week, it was disclosed that 12,000 posts in Treasury departments are to go over the next three years, including more than 2,500 in Customs and Excise and 6,700 in the Inland Revenue.

fall from 100,153 in 1996/97 to 78,589 in 1998/99. Almost 17,000 jobs, the bulk of the reduction, will be lost among permanent staff.

The report says the cuts will be achieved by simplifying procedures, maximising use of computer systems and introducing a "purchaser/provider" system of payment by results that will "involve both DSS staff and the private sector".

Jim Boyd, president of the DSS group of the Public Service, Tax and Commerce Union, said: "Ministers and officials have been trying to convince us there might not be large-scale job losses, but here is the proof."

and Urdu. The agency says it is examining alternatives to the existing 9800 numbers, including a local-rate service. Any change will not affect the free inquiry line for disabled people and that which helps people complete claim forms.

William Reid, the parliamentary ombudsman, today restates his warning that civil service staff cuts will lead to worse service to the public and more mistakes.

Mr Reid first spoke out last week in a report on the Child Support Agency. His annual report today shows a 28 per cent rise in complaints referred to him by MPs last year.

He said: "There is a risk that fewer staff will lead to both slower services to the public and to more mistakes... I doubt whether automation and technology will compensate fully for cuts in human resources."

A failure to account for a rising tide of fraud among the unemployed led the National Audit Office today to refuse to approve the accounts of the National Insurance Fund, writes David Henck.

Sir John Boura, the Comptroller and Auditor General, says that some £28 million claimed by the unemployed has been declared to be fraudulent. He is unable to find out how much paid out in benefit through other social security benefits is genuine.

Social Security Departmental Report; HMSO; £16. Annual Report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration; HMSO; £11.85



Staff at Croydon social security office... spending on DSS running costs is set for 10 pc fall by 1998-99

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAM SMITH

Labour accused of shroud waving as union backs health and safety fears

LABOUR'S employment spokesman, Ian McCartney, was accused by James Faice, training minister, who insisted that government training schemes were properly monitored by the Health and Safety Executive, of waving a shroud over the source of the leak, a civil service union, the Institute of Professional and Managerial Staffs, said the letter confirmed what the

union had been saying for two years - that vital parts of the HSE were close to collapse because of staff and funding cuts and increased workload.

Phil Carpenter, IPMS chief negotiator, said Mr Davies had emphatically denied the IPMS allegations when the HSE's annual report was issued in November. He added: "The truth is out now. While the HSE is carrying through major initiatives on

such issues as occupational health, the staff who have the necessary expertise to deal with the matter have been reduced almost to extinction."

The Liberal Democrat spokesman, Nick Harvey, said: "Normally Opposition MPs are the first to complain of spending cuts, but when a government agency makes this plea it shows the system is in crisis."

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Pro-Europe MPs warn against veto 'defeatism'

Michael White Political Editor

AN ALL-party campaign of pro-European MPs last night urged John Major to use the forthcoming Maastricht review conference as a chance to tilt the balance of the veto in favour of the European Union, towards reforms Britain wants to see.

action against fraud, curb excess spending on regional policies and direct research funds towards British projects, notably in hi-tech areas like defence and medicine.

It had already proved vital in making the internal market work better, they said. "Britain's defeatist mentality on the veto is unwarranted... in fact Britain is very rarely outvoted in the Council of Ministers - less so than Germany, which supports extended QMV."

Such talk infuriates Eurosceptics, who fear the federalist rhetoric John Redwood said this week that enlargement of the EU to the east would not be worth it if the price was more QMV - a reversal of the Thatcherite theory that a wider EU would be less federal.

Yesterday the Tories' Bill Cash called the IGC "our last chance" to reverse the Maastricht Treaty's push towards a federal Europe, while Labour's Peter Shore is warning colleagues that the goal of full employment must be added to the Maastricht criteria for launching a single currency.

Home Office relieved of divorce bill role

David Henck Westminster Correspondent

JOHN Major has instructed the Cabinet Office to take over full responsibility for the no-fault divorce bill after the rough ride suffered by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, in the House of Lords.

Officials reject Scott blame

Richard Norton-Taylor

SENIOR Whitehall officials last night warned ministers against making them carry the can for the sweeping criticisms of the Government machine in the Scott report on the arms-to-Iraq scandal.

action against fraud, curb excess spending on regional policies and direct research funds towards British projects, notably in hi-tech areas like defence and medicine.

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Police called in after planning councillors told to quit

Martin Wainwright

POLICE are to investigate four years of decisions by a district council whose entire planning committee has been told to resign in the face of evidence of "manipulation" involving a developer.

for which they took responsibility - and the operations of their departments.

The inquiry was ordered after public unease about 12 planning applications in four years, including decisions in favour of new housing and a supermarket. All involved a Nottinghamshire developer who has not been named, and an estimated 26 million increase in land values on the sites approved.

The report says that Mr Crossland's performance "fell below that which the public is entitled to expect from elected members who are chairs of committees."

It adds that blame must be shared with the Opposition group leader, Bernard Simcox. The report calls for the resignation of the entire committee, and the revocation of the tainted planning permissions.

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT
House of Commons: Northern Ireland questions. Debate on European intergovernmental conference. Backbench debate on lottery beneficiaries in West Suffolk, opened by Richard Spring (C).
House of Lords: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading. Deer (Amendment)(Scotland) Bill, report. Criminal Legal Aid (Scotland) (Prescribed Proceedings) Amendment Regulations.

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Yeltsin back in two-man race

James Meek in Moscow sees a fitter president shaping up to challenge his Communist rival

THE struggle for the presidency of Russia is shaping up as a straight fight between two widely mistrusted men as a revitalised Boris Yeltsin makes up ground lost to his Communist rival, Gennady Zyuganov. A poll published yesterday echoed the results of other surveys this week, showing Mr Yeltsin has moved up to second place behind the Communist leader as a string of marginal candidates fall by the wayside.

This is an extraordinary political spring for the Russian president after a long bleak winter lying seventh or eighth in the ratings. It follows months of war in Chechnya and chronic delays in paying wages, and comes de-

spite his heart attacks, his long absences from the Kremlin, and his often loutish behaviour on the public stage.

"It will be Yeltsin versus Zyuganov," said Boris Grushin, head of the polling organisation Vox Populi. "No one else is capable of reaching the second round."

Russia's election rules say that if no candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the vote in the first round, due on June 16, the two best-placed go through to a second round, probably on July 14.

The shuffling, bloated, dazed figure that Mr Yeltsin cut after his second heart attack in October seemed incapable of running for president, let alone winning, and even a month ago Mr Zyuganov looked quite likely to

face the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy or the liberal Grigory Yavlinsky in the run-off.

Mr Yeltsin remains unpopular but looks like the only real challenger to the Communists. "The election campaign is shaping up to be a bipolar contest," said Dr Kyryll Kholodkovskiy from the think tank Iteemo. "That doesn't mean all the voters will divide themselves into two camps of Yeltsinites and Zyuganov supporters. All the same I think the process of concentrating the votes around these two candidates will continue."

The latest poll showed Mr Zyuganov the clear leader on 19.1 per cent, with Mr Yeltsin second on 14 per cent. Tellingly, almost 30 per cent of

Christopher promises bigger Nato

Bozalis and elsewhere. But despite the strong tone of Mr Christopher's promise in Prague yesterday, there is no hint of any acceleration in the process of extending Nato membership to Poland, Hungary or the Czech Republic.

NATO enlargement is on track and it will happen, the US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, declared yesterday — but no decisions will be made until December, after the Russian and US presidential elections.

Responding to the wave of alarm which swept Russia's neighbours after a parliamentary vote in Moscow last week sought to rescind the dissolution of the old Soviet Union, Mr Christopher told the foreign ministers of 12 central and eastern European countries a meeting in Prague. "We are determined to move forward."

Nato, he said, "has made a commitment to take in new members and it must not and will not keep new democracies in the waiting room forever." And he vowed: "New allies will be full members of Nato."

'So you have understood after all that Nato must not expand'

But the Clinton administration is treading carefully, fearful of the domestic impact of a setback for Boris Yeltsin in Russia's election in June, and of the unravelling of US diplomacy around the world if Russia changes its broadly cooperative attitude towards the US.

The US is hoping that Mr Yeltsin will urge caution over Taiwan when he visits Beijing next month. America is also counting on Russian support to secure a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty later this year, and depends strongly on Russian backing for its peace programme in Bosnia.

President Clinton has put considerable effort into supporting the Yeltsin government in the run-up to the Russian election, pressing the International Monetary Fund to release another \$3 billion in credits for Russia. Mr Clinton will be in Moscow for a summit next month, and plans a further meeting with the Russian leader at the G7 summit in France.

The White House has denied that the Russians were secretly promised a long delay in any expansion of Nato, in return for co-operation in



Biker gang buries murdered leader and vows revenge



10 days ago by their rivals, the Hell's Angels.

About 150 gang members from Europe, the United States and Australia packed into the 16th century Lutheran church where his body lay in a coffin draped in the gang's orange and yellow colours. Armed police flooded the town, but there was no trouble.

Among the mourners were men in bandages and one on crutches, survivors of the March 10 shooting at Copenhagen airport. One wore a bullet-proof vest.

Banditos say that the motive for the attack was their rivals' desire to stay the top Scandinavian motorcycle gang.

One bearded Bandito said: "We'll show them, they'll pay." — Reuters.

World new in brief

Britain pledges £17m for Bosnia

BRITAIN pledged £17 million for rehabilitation work in Bosnia yesterday to bolster the flagging peace and encourage other donors to make good their promises to finance the Dayton agreement.

"We must show that peace pays," the Overseas Aid Minister, Baroness Chalker, said, announcing the initiative in London. "The signs of recovery will do more than anything to persuade the parties that the rewards of peace are real."

The high-profile move comes as diplomats admit that the civilian reconstruction effort has not matched the success of the Nato-led peace implementation force (I-FOR).

British sources say the United States, initially reluctant to pay for even administrative costs, now realises its tight December deadline for military withdrawal can be met only if the civilian effort makes progress.

Of the total, £3 million is to be spent on "free and fair" elections. But the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) estimates their cost at £100 million. — *Jan Black, Diplomatic Editor.*

Papandreou 'recovers'

TO THE astonishment of Greeks, doctors say Andreas Papandreou, the former prime minister, is to be released from hospital today.

"Start of developing a fever or a new lung infection, he will be out," said one of a team of 25 physicians who have been treating Mr Papandreou, aged 77, at the Onassis heart centre in Athens since November. He was in critical condition and on life support for several weeks, after suffering kidney and lung failure.

On being admitted into intensive care, Mr Papandreou was given a 3 per cent chance of survival. — *Helena Smith, Athens.*

Aids film imitates life

AFTER years of legal wrangling, the makers of the Oscar-winning film Philadelphia have conceded that the movie, starring Tom Hanks, was "inspired in part" by the story of a New York lawyer who was sacked because he had AIDS.

TriStar Pictures said it reached a settlement on Tuesday with the family of Geoffrey Bowers, the attorney who died in 1987. It is understood the family will receive a sizeable share of the film's estimated \$40 million profit.

The case has sent nervous tremors through Hollywood because of its potential implications for films loosely based on or inspired by real life stories. — *Jon Katz, New York.*

Santer appeals on jobs

THE president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, appealed to European Union leaders yesterday to override their finance ministers and back his plan to stimulate growth and jobs by using an EU windfall to spend more on transport and energy networks across the continent.

Mr Santer will tell the EU summit in Turin next week that there will be at least £3 billion of unspent agricultural money in the Brussels budget, allowing national governments substantial rebates, while still leaving funds for his infrastructure plan.

But senior EU officials say the likely savings due to agricultural reform could be "substantially greater" than £3 billion.

Meanwhile, the debate about a single European currency took a new turn yesterday when the internal market commissioner, Mario Monti, said governments should scrap the national veto on tax policy. The EU should use majority voting, he said, to create jobs by shifting taxes on workers to a common minimum tax on capital. — *John Fisher and Julie Wolf, Brussels.*

Pavarotti separates from wife

THE opera superstar Luciano Pavarotti and his wife Adua announced their separation yesterday after 35 years of marriage, just weeks after the tenor admitted to an affair with his 25-year-old secretary.

The brief statement, issued through Mrs Pavarotti's lawyer, said they chose to publicise the separation because of the "social obligations that arise from their celebrity status". He said they had not yet begun formal divorce proceedings. — *Reuter, Rome.*

German test for single currency

A state poll at the weekend will show whether voters buy Kohl's vision, writes Ian Traynor in Bonn

THE well-to-do citizens of the south German state of Baden-Württemberg may not know it, but when they vote at the weekend to decide who will govern them for the next four years, they may also decide whether they will still have German marks in their pockets by the time of the next ballot.

For the first time in Germany an election is being fought on the issue of the single European currency, and the outcome of Sunday's regional ballot could reverberate well beyond Stuttgart, the state capital, and even beyond Germany.

The Social Democratic Party, in opposition in Bonn but in coalition government in the state with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, is opposing economic and monetary union (EMU), portraying itself as the guardian of jobs at a time of soaring unemployment and deep anxiety about the future of Germany's generous welfare state.

SPD posters plastered all over Baden-Württemberg are calling for a delay in the 1999 scheduled launch of the single currency to concentrate on creating jobs.

The anti-EMU campaign is headed by Dieter Spöerl, the local Social Democratic leader and economics minister in the outgoing coalition, but bears the hallmark of the new SPD national leader, Oskar Lafontaine. Mr Lafontaine has broken with the Bonn consensus on the merits of a common currency since seizing the party leadership last November.

He told a campaign rally at the weekend that a single currency in 1999 could bring recession and greater unemployment throughout Europe. Pundits see Mr Lafontaine's campaign as a trial balloon for a bigger national onslaught on EMU, which is central to Mr Kohl's policies.

Should the SPD gain considerably on Sunday, Mr Lafontaine may conclude that he has hit on a dream theme for the next national elections in 1998, only months before

which Mr Yeltsin faces a strong challenge from the nationalist and communist opposition.

In an article in yesterday's edition of the newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, prominent political analysts claim that talk of Nato expansion has already had an adverse effect in Russia.

"The planned process of the alliance's enlargement is being taken by the majority of Russian politicians not simply as a threat, but as a collapse of partner relations with the West," they write.

Mr Yeltsin, who will meet Mr Solana today, warned last September that if the Western alliance absorbed former members of the Soviet bloc it could "ignite the flame of war".

In Prague, Mr Christopher praised Mr Yeltsin for opposing the non-binding parliamentary resolution. "History must not be reversed," he said. "He and most Russians understood that Russia's interests lie in treating all its neighbours as equal sovereign partners in an integrated Europe."

In Stuttgart, the 'grand coalition' appears to be on its last legs

Already Bonn is buzzing with speculation that a "grand coalition" of Christian and Social Democrats may be the only way to forge the active consensus thought necessary if it is knocked out of two of the three agreements, its participation in national government would be questioned.

The Christian Democrats are certain to emerge as the stronger party, but neither of the big parties will be able to rule alone. The Free Democrats are the obvious partner for the Christian Democrats, but if they fail to muster the 5 per cent of the door could open to a Social Democratic coalition with the Greens.

This, in turn, would strengthen the opposition majority in parliament's upper house. In Bonn, though, the Social Democrats would probably be still slightly short of the two-thirds majority in the upper house which would enable them to paralyse Mr Kohl's government by vetoing his legislation.

Building on the crash, G2 Frost

Berlusconi's party manager accused of bribing judges

John Hooper in Rome

THE leader of the Italian right, Silvio Berlusconi, embarked on a general election campaign yesterday, weighed down by fresh accusations that the man who runs his party systematically bribed Roman judges.

One of Mr Berlusconi's MPs said that Cesare Previti, chief organiser of the billionaire's Forza Italia (Come On, Italy) movement, had been "in a position to fix the rulings of the court of cassation" (Italy's highest court). Michele Caccavale, who was dropped as a candidate at next month's election, made his accusations in an interview with a leftwing radio station.

Further claims were made in a statement to prosecutors leaked to the Rome daily newspaper *La Repubblica*. A society aristocrat whose evidence has already put one senior judge behind bars was quoted as naming seven others she said had received gifts and money from Mr Previti.

Countess Stefania Ariosto said Mr Previti, who is also Mr Berlusconi's lawyer in Rome, used to keep a special account for bribing judges. Her claims were denied yesterday by Mr Previti and the judges named.

Judge Renato Squillante, who was taken into custody last week on the strength of Ms Ariosto's deposition, was reported to have begun a hunger strike to secure his release.

The countess was reported to have claimed that many of the bribes came in the form of jewellery for judges' wives.

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I accuse... A woman supporter of the Nation of Islam is led from a congressional hearing on Louis Farrakhan's tour

PHOTOGRAPH BY DENNIS COOK

US condemns Farrakhan 'terror tour'

Jonathan Freedland
in Washington

THE United States Congress is about to crack down on Louis Farrakhan, the head of the Nation of Islam, whose organisation of the Million Man March last year made him the *de facto* leader of black America. A coalition of Republicans and Democrats will vote next week to condemn Mr Farrakhan for a world tour last month which included stops in Iran, Iraq and Libya and meetings with Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi.

After a bitter hearing on Capitol Hill, which descended into a brawl on Tuesday between Nation of Islam activists and congressional staff, Mr Farrakhan also faces legal action by the government. The Clinton administration is considering prosecuting the cleric — widely condemned as a black supremacist and anti-Semite — for making unauthorised visits to countries classified by the US as sponsors of international terrorism. The state department said he was guilty of "cavorting" with the dictators of countries with which the US has severed relations. If prosecuted, he would face a heavy

fine or travel restrictions. "The message today is enforce the law," said Christopher Smith, the Republican chairman of the House international relations subcommittee which held hearings on Mr Farrakhan's "terror tour". Struggling to be heard above the heckling of several hundred Nation of Islam supporters, the Republican Peter King called Mr Farrakhan a "vicious racist and hate-monger, as well as a national security threat". The ire of Congress was stirred most by Mr Farrakhan's acceptance of a pledge from Libya for \$1 billion (\$550 million) in aid, and his

reported comment to an Iranian news agency: "God will not give Japan or Europe the honour of bringing down the United States; this is an honour God will bestow upon Muslims." Congress now seems ready to tighten the squeeze on the Nation of Islam. Even before the trip, the authorities had moved to cancel federal contracts hiring the Nation's security unit — the so-called Fruit of Islam — to protect mainly black inner-city housing estates. As the hearing began, activists chanting "Harris off Farrakhan" stormed the platform to protest that their leader had

not been invited to testify. Mr Farrakhan had said he would have welcomed a "showdown" with the government. If called, he would have exposed Congress as a puppet of the Israeli parliament. Protesters later chased several committee members out of the hearing room, leading to a brawl in the corridors. Two were arrested for disruption of Congress. Meanwhile Jonetta Rose Barras, a leading black activist, accused Mr Farrakhan of squandering both the money and the political capital raised by the Million Man March, which is still \$150,000 in the red.

S Lebanon erupts as suicide attack kills soldier Hizbullah bomber blasts Israeli patrol

Derek Brown in Taibe,
Israeli-occupied
south Lebanon

HEAVY fighting erupted in south Lebanon yesterday after an Israeli patrol in the occupation zone was blasted by a roadside bomb. One soldier died and five were wounded. The Islamist guerrilla movement Hizbullah claimed that one of its men had blown himself up in the attack. A source in the United Nations peacekeeping force, Unifil, said early indications were of a suicide bombing. Yesterday's death blast followed a brief lull in south Lebanon's ugly war of attrition, which has claimed many hundreds of lives — including 157 Israeli troops — since the zone was established in June 1985. But it also came at a time of growing tension in the region.

Lebanese news bulletins and newspapers have been giving shrill warnings of imminent Israeli action against the Hizbullah and other guerrillas. This month alone there have been 80 attacks on Israeli forces and Israel's client militia, the so-called South Lebanese Army. In February there were 90 attacks, the most ever recorded by Unifil in a single month. Five Israeli soldiers have been killed and 23 wounded this month. What is more worrying for Israeli commanders is that the Hizbullah's tactics have become more sophisticated. Last week four soldiers of the elite Golani Brigade were killed by a roadside bomb, detonated as they chased gunmen. In Israel there has been intense speculation about a retaliatory strike. On Monday night Israeli television reported reinforcements en-

tering the "security zone", possibly in preparation for an operation to clear the zone. An additional cause of tension has been Israel's blockade of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, although some travel restrictions have been eased. Some of the 500 Islamists arrested are suspected of having links with the recent suicide bombings in Israel, which claimed 82 lives. The government has said it will expel some of the men picked up, prompting speculation of another mass deportation to south Lebanon. In 1992 Israel transported more than 400 Islamists into Lebanon and dumped them just north of the occupation zone. The Lebanese government refused to let them move any further, and they remained for a year on a bleak hillside in no man's land. Now the Lebanese government is saying again that it will not allow its territory to be used as a human refuse heap. Lebanese soldiers have hastily built earth barriers across some roads on their side of the zone.

'Let's get back to basics. Who in this conflict is in the wrong country?'

South Lebanon is, at the best of times, a weird and eerie place. On Tuesday, less than 24 hours before the latest bombing, this reporter spent several hours with Unifil touring some of the most bloodied terrain in the region. There is, at first glance, no hint of conflict in the landscape of rocky slopes and terraced fields of olive groves and almond trees. Yet the signs of war are all around. Whole villages have been obliterated by Israeli explosives, to prevent their use for ambush. Roads are studded with Unifil checkpoints and security gates. The zone's civilian population is about 200,000. In 1985, before the Israelis came, it was more than three times that figure. The depopulation shows in the unworked fields, the somnolent quiet of the villages, and the virtual absence of young men of military age. There are young men, but many of them serve with the SLA, or in the less visible ranks of the Hizbullah or the Amal militia. Not infrequently, members of the same family fight on different sides. In Taibe, 500 yards or so from the site of yesterday's blast, soldiers of the Finnish battalion (Finbatt), which straddles the border of the zone, are overlooked by both Israeli and SLA positions, which means they are often uncomfortably close to the firing line. Which is exactly where they are supposed to be. "My job is to look after the civilian people here, their houses, their olive trees and of course the human beings. That is enough for me. If soldiers kill each other, so what? That is not my problem," said the affable company commander in Taibe, Major Markku Haapasalo. But Maj Haapasalo admitted that his tiny force does from time to time find itself protecting armed as well as unarmed civilians. "We try to get them to move away from the villages when they fire." "Yes, they do sometimes fire from the villages. But that is also where they live and work," he said. Another Unifil official makes the point that "basics. Who [in this conflict] is in the wrong country?"

Kenyan plea for aid faces rising donor scepticism

Greg Barrow in Nairobi

THE Kenyan government is expected to plead for increased aid to its growing economy, and to attempt to deflect criticism of continuing political repression, when it meets donor countries in Paris today. The annual meeting brings together senior Kenyan ministers, representatives of multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and bilateral donors, including Britain and Germany. Divisions have emerged between countries such as Britain, which have heavy investments in Kenya and remain strong historical links, and other donors, particularly in Scandinavia, which say pressure to improve human rights must be stepped up. "The political situation is still not what we would call satisfactory," said one Scandinavian diplomat in Nairobi. "We'll be carrying out a major evaluation of our aid budget to Kenya after the next elections." Some donors are likely to highlight the harassment of opposition MPs and the disruption of meetings and rallies. They will also question the lack of judicial independence — evidenced by the imprisonment last year of the dissident Koigi wa Wamwere. Kenya is expected to cite its economic growth rate — more than 5 per cent a year — and its achievement of single-digit inflation. Robert Shaw, a spokesman for the Safina party, led by the white conservationist Richard Leakey, said: "The fact that the government has found itself unable to register new opposition parties like ours shows that, fundamentally, nothing much has changed." The government's refusal to register new parties will be raised. Also on the agenda will be President Moi's unbudgeted expenditure on a \$30 million presidential jet.

Winnie loses claim for cash

David Beresford
in Johannesburg

WINNIE MANDELA failed to put in an appearance at a hearing to decide a financial settlement in her divorce proceedings yesterday, losing by default any legal claim on the estate of the South African president. Nelson Mandela said in a statement later: "I have instructed my legal representative to negotiate an ex-gratia payment to her, and the waiver of the costs granted by the court in my favour." He added: "I am glad that the case is over and regret that my ex-wife could not bring herself to negotiate an amicable settlement. It would have saved us both and our children much pain... I hope and trust that she will now be prepared to be reasonable. It can only be to her benefit." Mrs Mandela said she might go to the higher constitutional court to get what she called a "fair hearing". She said she was taking legal advice. The hearing on the financial settlement was separated from the divorce action by Judge Frikste Eloff on Monday. But when the matter resumed in the Rand supreme court yesterday morning there was no sign of Mrs Mandela, or her lawyers. Counsel for the president, Wim Tregrove, asked for the dismissal of the claim and costs, which were granted. On Tuesday Judge Eloff granted a decree of divorce to Mr Mandela, on the grounds of the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage and Mrs Mandela's adultery with a young lawyer. Mrs Mandela claimed half of her husband's estate and demanded details of his financial assets. Local newspapers have valued the estate at nearly \$7 million, but they exaggerate. Papers before the court have shown that he has given large sums of money to Mrs Mandela and their children since his release from prison in 1991. He contributed more than \$100,000 towards the cost of the lavish mansion she had

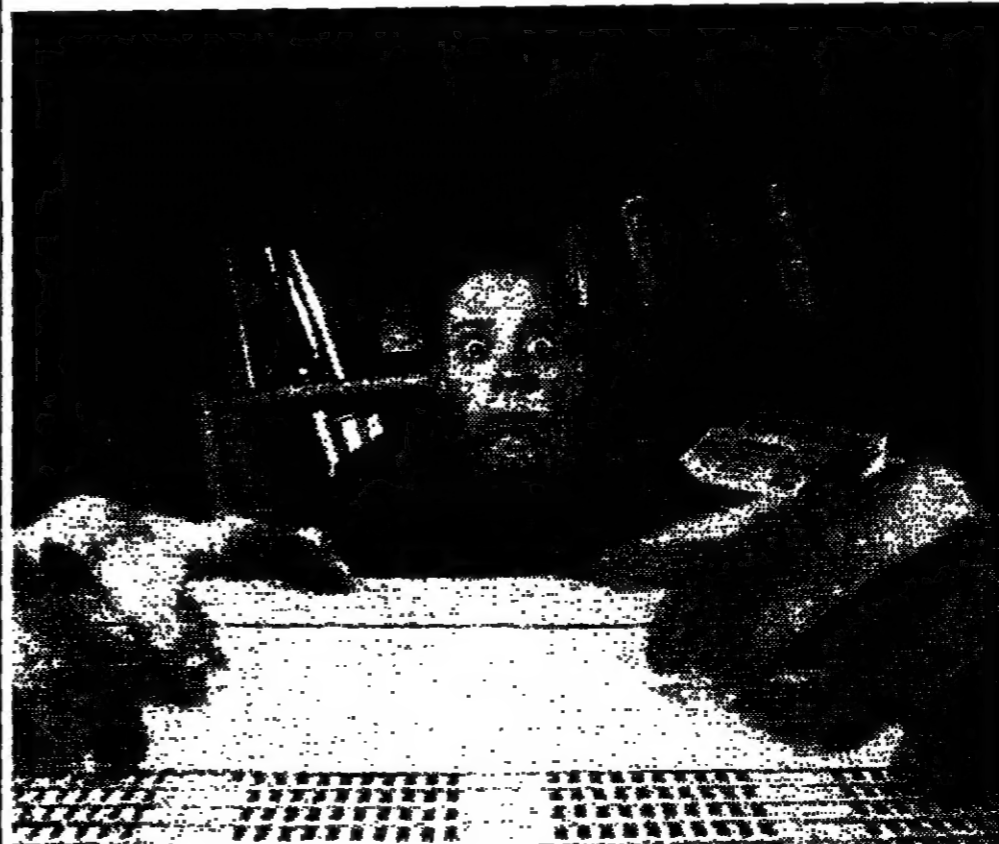
built in Soweto, and \$90,000 for her defence on kidnapping charges in the trial in 1991 linked to the murder of a 14-year-old township activist, Stompie Sepele. Mr Mandela spent \$170,000 on houses and cars for their two daughters and the schooling of his grandchildren. The public humiliation of Mrs Mandela in the supreme court raises questions about her political survival. There are few commentators who would predict an end to her role in public life, having seen her raise herself from the ranks of the politically dead on too many occasions in the past. But the disclosure by the hugely popular president of her earlier involvement in his divorce case, after his release from prison — "I was the loneliest man."

Two of her bodyguards were charged yesterday with assault

he told Judge Eloff — must rule out any return to office in a Mandela government and could cost her the leadership of the ANC Women's League. Her band of intensely loyal supporters in the ANC will probably be sufficiently numerous to guarantee her a parliamentary seat under the party list system which operates in South Africa. But the divorce is unlikely to end the scandal surrounding her. Mr Mandela said in his testimony that he could disclose "more serious" dirty linen than the single act of adultery cited. Only yesterday her name featured in the criminal courts yet again, when two of her bodyguards were charged with assault and attempted murder before a Soweto magistrate. Mrs Mandela, who has recently started calling herself "Madikizela-Mandela", issued a statement yesterday describing her defeat in the divorce action as a "testimony of justice", adding that it "undermines everything our marriage was all about".



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Countless politicians drone on about how divorce is tearing apart the fabric of society. Tearing apart the fabric of society presumably should be left to professionals like them, not done routinely by households up and down the country.

Suzanne Moore G2 page 7

Bitter price of short cuts

We are all guilty about beef: farmers most of all

WILL John Selwyn Gummer live to regret stuffing a beefburger into his daughter's mouth? Politically, he presumably already does. It was an asinine way for a minister to demonstrate his faith in the safety of British beef. But how much of a health risk was it? A lot less in 1990 than it would have been in 1989 before the ban on beef offal, used until then in sausages, pies and burgers, was banned. The biggest threat which mad cow poses is not to people who eat beef now — although scientists remain divided — but to people who ate infected beef products before the 1989 controls were introduced. We still do not know whether mad cow disease (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE) can be transmitted to man but a worrying new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), which could be linked with BSE was disclosed by ministers yesterday. New research into 10 people who died from CJD by a committee of specialists advising ministers concluded that "the most likely explanation at present is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE before the introduction of the specified bovine offal ban in 1989."

No one can criticise the promptness with which ministers moved on the latest research. Two ministers — health and agriculture — made separate statements to the Commons and announced strict new rules: all carcasses from cattle over 30 months to be deboned in specially licensed plants supervised by the Meat Hygiene Service to ensure all trimmings are kept out of the food chain; a ban on the use of all meat and bonemeal in feed for farm animals; and a crash £4.5 million research programme into possible links between BSE and its human form, CJD. The reason why this first established link between BSE and CJD is being taken so seriously is because of a potential doomsday scenario. With an incubation

period of up to 30 years, people who ate infected meat in the late 1980s may not show signs of the disease until way into the millennium but the numbers then could be huge: all suffering, like the wobbly mad cows seen on television, from loss of co-ordination, balance, and brain degeneration.

No absolute proof that BSE is passed to humans through beef has been established. The current British CJD rate — one death per million people — is roughly the same as continental countries with no BSE. Austria, which has no BSE, has a higher CJD death rate than Britain. The committee of experts does not want a beef ban. The chief medical officer says it is safe to eat beef, but believes the new evidence is "cause for serious concern".

A new beef scare seems inevitable. That is a pity for the farmers but good news for the food chain. Public scares seem to be the only thing that galvanise ministers in this field. The most probable cause of mad cow disease is suspect cattle food which includes offal from scrapie-infected sheep. Mad sheep disease existed for over 200 years without spreading to cattle until the relatively recent — and utterly deplorable — innovation of feeding sheep scraps to cows. Animal husbandry is expensive: it takes 7lbs of vegetables to make 1lb of beef protein. But the price of short cuts could not have been better illustrated. Cows are herbivores but have been fed chicken litter, pig offal and, until July 1988, infected sheep remains. Yesterday's ban on all meat and bonemeal feed for animals comes far too late. The entire food chain philosophy is wrong: the search for a quick fix. Not all fault can be placed on the farmer — producers, processors, distributors, retailers, consumers are all involved — but it starts behind the farm gate. Farming became far too intensive: and nature has hit back.

A moment of truth for India

The election could set the nation's politics on a new course

WHEN INDIA SETS the date of its national election, it ought to be a red letter affair. Not so long ago the news would have been greeted with headlines about the world's largest democracy: there would have been comparisons with China and allusions to India's vital international role. Since the cold war ended the centre of gravity has shifted, leaving the sub-continent in something of a geo-political limbo. India is still, with 500 million voters, the biggest country to operate a formal democratic system: that should be an impressive fact. But confidence in the system has declined over many years — long before the latest corruption scandal. The "hawsals" bombshell, in which more than a hundred senior politicians have been accused of accepting illegally laundered money, certainly puts India back on the map. No one can now complain that this will be an election without issues.

It is not the first time that scandals of this type have shaken India. The Bofors gun deal ticked away for three years before the powder caught fire. But this mega-package of corruption has acquired a quite different sort of critical mass. The question for late April and May is whether the sleaze revelations will submerge the credibility of Indian democracy, or impel a new process of cleansing and rejuvenation.

On the credit side is the actual emergence of the affair. The sudden move by the Criminal Bureau of Investigation to "charge-sheet" leading politicians was

first seen as a tactical ploy by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao to wrangle the opposition, and particularly the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). But Mr Rao's own Congress party has been tarnished badly: the real initiative came from the Supreme Court which instructed the CBI to get on with the job. In its everyday work, this body is already far more accessible to the public than the highest judiciary anywhere else including the US. Its 23 judges have become a virtual substitute for correct or inefficient state administrations. The Indian press does not come badly out of the affair either. Though it was slow to respond, a small number of determined journalists refused to let go and there is now a more vigorous investigative effort.

Much will now depend upon whether the leftwing parties — untainted by corruption — and other non-BJP opposition parties can become an effective third force which would then, according to most predictions, hold the balance in a new Lok Sabha. One way or another, this election will be seen as a moment of truth throughout almost all of India. The exception is Kashmir where every such contest will be an irrelevance until the region's own crisis receives radical attention. The Indian economy is already in a state of confused transition and the Prime Minister's "middle way" for it remains undefined. Now India faces a benchmark election which could also set the nation's politics upon a new course.

We are not at all amused

Our royals can't hold a light to Florence Nightingale

MARCH is turning into a bad month for Florence Nightingale. A bad month in a bad century. The eminent Victorian's reputation took a direct hit from Lytton Strachey in 1918 and her stock has been sliding gently downhill ever since. But this month has been particularly damaging. First a Crimean soldier's letter came to light that was anything but complimentary about the Lady with the Lamp. Now a letter of her own reveals that the Lady enjoyed seances with a Swedish masseur and took libido-suppressing bromides well into her 60s.

Some will console themselves that at least this was all very different from the home life of our own dear Queen. And yet who can really say? The history of Victorian England seems littered with the shattered remains of fallen idols with feet of clay. Even Queen Victoria is no longer above suspicion. Then there was Dickens and his love child.

William Morris turns out to have been a bad-tempered hysteric. W G Grace was a cheat. Any number of supposedly respectable people seem to have been plausible candidates for Jack the Ripper. And if even a fraction of the world described by Walter in My Secret Life is true then sexual intercourse began not in 1963 but in prodigious abundance at least a century earlier.

Once upon a time history consisted of ripping yarns about British heroes. Many Conservatives wish it still did. They would like to put Dr Livingstone, Gordon of Khartoum, Florence Nightingale, Margaret Thatcher and the rest back on their pedestals. But history isn't like that. We live in an age when fairy-tale princesses go on television to admit they slept with Guards officers. If Florence Nightingale spent some of her later life doped up to the eyeballs, then that doesn't sully her reputation. It



Letters to the Editor

John Redwood Pulped

FIRST we had the return of the Sex Pistols, complete with pop-bellies and wigs, and now we have none other than John Redwood MP singing the praises of the Lightning Seeds and Blur ("There's Always England, March 20").

British pop music has become so safe. Even I and my friends have found ourselves getting all nostalgic about the 1960s lately, even though none of us was born until the mid-1970s. At least in the 60s pop music had a sense of itself being separate from, and opposed to, Britain's stuffy establishment.

But Redwood's article was not about pop music at all. Instead he was trying to convince British youth that Britain is still a major world power. Apparently the success of a few second-rate Britpop bands proves that "there is still a lively cultural heart ticking away in the UK". And not only do we make good pop music but we also win wars!

See, Britain is still a major power in the world. Our brave army massacres defenceless women and children in Iraq and Bosnia — and we're supposed to be a world leader on our own! Then we helped America win in the Gulf.

See, Britain is still a major power in the world. Our brave army massacres defenceless women and children in Iraq and Bosnia — and we're supposed to be a world leader on our own! Then we helped America win in the Gulf.

JOHN REDWOOD'S lauding of Britpop as reflecting the vitality and distinctiveness of British (or English?) cultural identity is at best naive, at worst pernicious. The likes of Blur and Oasis do not represent an expansive and contemporary notion of cultural identity. Britpop is, for the most part, retrospective, appealing to the bygone age of the Beatles, the Stones and the Small Faces. One suspects that this is exactly its appeal to Redwood, for whom the village cricket green and pretty brick buildings encapsulate what was and continues to be central to our identity as a nation. This rather simple-

minded view of British culture has little bearing on contemporary realities.

The most innovative and influential brands of pop music since the 1960s have been punk, acid house, techno and jungle. All have been central to the ways in which young people have expressed themselves culturally as British.

They are all primarily urban cultures, far removed from the green and pleasant land. Each is expressive of a reality over which Redwood and his government have presided for so long.

ROHIT LAKHI, Circular Road, Manchester M20 3LP.

IT IS a pity John Redwood didn't share his (researcher's?) knowledge about the recent re-formation of the Sex Pistols, the epitome of 1970s "Britpop". It would have been marvellous to read Redwood's lyrical analysis of the prophetic Anarchy in the UK. Even better if he were to give us a view on the bankruptcy of a political system which exists via the patronage of the monarchy and through which power is exercised on behalf of the few against the many, expertly depicted in God Save the Queen.

I was, up until his article, quite ambivalent about the return of the Sex Pistols; but now I can't wait. Andrew Freeman, 4 Robin Hood Avenue, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Notts NG21 9LG.

HE concludes by claiming Handel's Water Music as "English Jollification". Handel was born in Germany and whilst living in Britain com-

posed the Water Music for a German-born British king. Not so much English but German jollification. How very pro-European, Mr Redwood. Ronald B. Voce, Department of History and Welsh History, UCW Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

REDWOOD'S admission to being a Barron Knights fan was a cynical ploy to wangle himself back into the Cabinet as Heritage Minister. Gareth Roberts, 22b Woodrich Road, London SE10 0JU.

INTERESTING that he sees a "double entendre" message to us Tories in the Lightning Seeds' lyrics. I spotted one too: "The world is full of fools who never get it right". Stuart Nathan, 34 Pembroke Road, Ilford, Essex IG3 8PH.

BLAIR'S debut hit was "Have Fun Go Mad". With time on his hands, Mr Redwood had evidently been having a little too much fun of late. Adrian Lovett, 74 Wicor Mill Lane, Fareham, Hants PO16 9EL.

PRESUMABLY the preferred Oasis songs of other Tories include: Definitely Maybe (John Major), Cigarettes and Alcohol (Ken Clarke), Married With Children (Stephen Norris), Slide Away (Ken Baker), East No Shore (Nicholas Soames), Live Forever (Edward Heath), Roll With It (Alan Duncan)... Bob Shyan, 67 Brynlan Road, Llandudno, Gwynedd LL30 2EZ.

A good man is indeed hard to find. So, who cares?

THE obvious reason why men have not gravitated towards the "caring" professions is because they tend to be badly paid and low status (A good man is hard to find, Society, March 20).

Eugen Hockenjos will, however, find a disproportionate number of men in management in both social services as well as education. Men's declining job prospects may well mean more men will consider working with children in the future. But this presents us with dilemmas which Hockenjos fails to recognise.

We have witnessed countless child sex-abuse scandals in the recent past involving male childcare workers in local authorities as well as the private sector. We know that a significant minority of those men who gravitate towards work with children are abusers. James Hamilton's persistent and obsessive attempts to carry on running his "boys' clubs" are just one example of this phenomenon.

The vast majority of child sex offences, in and outside the home, don't result in criminal convictions. So checks on previous convictions can't be relied on to weed out potential abusers.

Like many women, I'd like to see more men involved in childcare. In the seventies this seemed an unproblematic feminist desire. But that was before we'd recognised the prevalence of child sex abuse. We now know too much to return to that earlier, simple optimism. If more men are to be actively recruited into child-

care, adequate supervision is vital if we're to ensure the safety of children. Jayne Egerton, 23 Spelthurst Road, London E9 7EH.

WHY is a good man hard to find? It's hardly that women fence them out with jokes, banter and other forms of harassment. Equal opportunities for men are not the issue — the men who do choose to enter caring professions still scale the promotion ladder relatively fast. But it's a ladder built on shaking soil. The declining relative pay of all feminised public-sector occupations is what puts men off. Sure, there should be no more reason for women to accept lower pay than men, but so long as they do, occupations will tend to be staffed by one sex or other. Irene Bruemel, South Bank University, Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2JZ.

IF caring professions, men often face the same situations as women in jobs where they are very much in the minority; you often find yourself excluded from the informal social networks at work you also find out how subtle and unconscious sexual harassment can be. More equal representation of men and women across the professions will not occur until we all start to change society's attitudes and expectations. Ken Cole, Brockholes View, Preston PR1 4BH.

Planting an alternative

THE Plant Commission did not recommend the Alternative Vote (Hugo Young's Commentary, March 19). It recommended the Supplementary Vote. The Supplementary Vote, which I designed in 1989, removes perverse results which sometimes occur under the Alternative Vote. Under the latter, it is possible for first-count, third-place candidates to win. Under the Supplementary Vote, only those placed first or second on the first count can win.

The Supplementary Vote provides for greater proportionality than the present system. Nevertheless, some people recommend that the Supplementary Vote could be topped up with electoral lists. I have an open mind. The Alternative Vote, under the latter, it is possible for first-count, third-place candidates to win. Under the Supplementary Vote, only those placed first or second on the first count can win.

Dale Campbell-Savours MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

A Country Diary

DIRRIE MORE: On a cloudless day I drove over this vast tract of open moorland and lochs lying in Wester Ross between Ullapool and Garve. Although the moorland may seem desolate at this time of the year the general scenery is dramatic as the area is brooded over by the hills of Ben Wyvis, the Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and An Teallach — all with extensive snow fields. A dead mountain hare in white winter coat was a road casualty and quite a surprise. In eastern parts of the Highlands, the heath areas are, in parts, very common but in the west they are few and far between, partly because of the wet conditions and higher rainfall. So the chances of such a road casualty on the Dirrie More was very low although it is admittedly a fast road. Because there are more mountain hares in the east, golden eagles there stand much more chance of rearing two chicks successfully. In the west,

either turf the younger chick out of the nest or eat its sibling. Not far from the dead hare is a small area of bright green grassland adjacent to a fast-flowing burn. There is a small loch in one corner and the field is so bright green that even in the summer it still stands out from the surrounding moorland. Like many other parts of the Highlands the grassland looks as if it has been "improved" by fertilisers but I sometimes wonder if this is the case. There used to be an old drove road over the moorland along which small black cattle would have been driven down from Sutherland to the first of the larger trysts at Muir of Ord. Could the bright green grassland have nothing to do with artificial fertilisers? Could it have been enriched by cattle droppings when the area was used as an overnight stop where the cattle rested and fed before continuing their long journey south.

A Flick back

YOU say that, among others, I was involved in Oxford University's negotiations concerning the acceptance of Mr Gert-Rudolph Flick's gift, the creation of the Chair, etc (Shame behind the name, March 13).

This is not the case. My only connection with the Chair was that I was consulted about the field of knowledge to which the Chair was to be devoted. Presumably as a result of this I was appointed by the university to the Board of Electors to the Professorship, and we made what seems to me to be an excellent appointment.

My point is that I had nothing to do with the obtaining of the gift or the negotiations which led to its acceptance. I was not consulted about this at any stage.

I should be grateful if you would correct the impression that you gave that I was in some way one of those who persuaded the university to accept the gift. Sir Isaiah Berlin, Headington House, Old High Street, Headington, Oxford OX3 9HU.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171-837 4530 or posted to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We reserve the

Heysham: a nuclear reaction

ONCE again we see the use of the emotive term "meltdown" when there was no question of it arising (New View on design of reactors, March 19). The refuelling safety case accepts that stops and snags can happen. In this event, the reactor will automatically shut itself down — as it did at Heysham 2. In this case the fuel assembly suggested some three to four metres above the reactor core, and during the entire process of removal and replacement the cooling systems continued to work.

The decision to stop on-load refuelling at both stations was taken by Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear as a prudent measure, and reflects our safety-first approach. Although our investigation is not completed, early indications are that this is a "one-

off" situation — and the fact that we have already refuelled over 150 strings at Heysham 2 without difficulty seems to bear this out. The reactor was returned safely to power with the agreement of the regulator, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, and has operated safely at full power since. Hinkley Point B and Hunterston are of a different design and continue to refuel on-load without difficulty.

You claim that the details of the fuelling problem at Heysham "have been kept secret". Not so. In our fortnightly station newsletters, progress on return to power of Reactor 8 was consistently reported. Sir Noel Davies, Chairman, Nuclear Electric plc, 123 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA.

Another view of the graffiti war

HILARY LAW and Nicola Watson (Letters, March 20) want to blame Simon Sunderland for all the problems of Sheffield's graffiti. Yes there is a lot in Sheffield. Much is grim and offensive. But Simon's work was colourful and creative and did not threaten anyone except those architects and councillors who believe that everything on our estates should be dull and drab and uniform. Sheffield's real problems are not

and jobs. That's down to Tory policies. But Sheffield is also cursed by the debts hung round its neck for the world student games fiasco and the ill-conceived super tram project. National and local politicians have created a huge layer of victims who try to exist with sense and dignity. Five years for Simon's graffiti says that the victims are to blame for the mess created by others. Gordon Arthur

Tom Enders

In defence of the indefensible

TOM ENDERS, one of the cleverest and best-bred Americans of his generation, was born to succeed. And by most standards Enders, who has died aged 64, must be judged a notable success; he became an ambassador and an assistant secretary of state and finally a managing director of Salomon Brothers finance group.

He was lured into the gross simplicities of grand strategy as waged by the presidencies of Nixon and Reagan

But from the perspective of a young man formally declared the most gifted scholar of his year at Yale, a diplomat who aided most of his contemporaries, and one who helped craft the G7 process of international economic summits, his career ended in rancour and disappointment.

Enders was an extraordinary figure, 6ft 8in tall and with intensely piercing eyes, a near albino who was known in diplomatic circles as "the white rabbit". Most of his colleagues regarded him as arrogant and intimidating; his defenders, like former secretary of state Al Haig, say he did not suffer fools gladly.

Enders had the ambition to play at the highest levels, and this lured his finely tuned mind into the gross simplicities of grand strategy, as waged by the presidencies of Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

As deputy and later acting

chief of mission in Cambodia in the early 1970s, he deliberately stalled and misled congressional investigators who were trying to ascertain the stability of the Lon Nol regime and the role of US forces.

The investigators, James Lowenstein and Richard Moore, then bought cheap short-wave radios in the Phnom Penh market, and his

Kissinger and others to persuade the Senate foreign relations committee to confirm Enders in his next job, but the committee noted publicly that Enders had been "grossly misleading".

Away from the front line of Cold War diplomacy, Enders prospered. As assistant secretary for economic affairs in 1974, he ran the task force on US responses to the Opec

price rise and the energy crisis, and virtually founded the International Energy Agency. As ambassador to Canada from 1976-79, and to the European Community in Brussels in 1979-81, he fulfilled much of his early promise.

Then the Reagan presidency called him back to the Cold War's front lines in Latin America, as assistant secretary of state. Always keen to prove that a man of his intellectual gifts had the moral toughness required for grand strategy, he found himself repeatedly defending the indefensible, as US aid was poured into the hideous

regime of El Salvador, and veterans of Argentina's "dirty war" were hired to train counter-insurgency teams like the infamous Battalion 316 of Honduras.

These countries were "making a significant effort to comply with international obligations and human rights", he constantly assured Congress, insisting "there is no evidence to confirm" the press reports of what later became hideously proven as the massacre of El Mozote.

Enders began by talking to the Sandinistas of Nicaragua, hoping to pursue a two-track approach of serious negotiations under the threat of increasing the military pressure through the Nicaraguan Contras. This was not macho enough for the cold warriors of the Reagan years, who refused to negotiate with Daniel Ortega that might have ended the war, at the price of allowing the Sandinista regime to survive.

National security adviser Richard Allen and CIA director William Casey combined to block the deal, and Enders finally resigned in 1983.

He became ambassador to Spain for three years, and then moved into banking where Salomon Brothers credited him with "a major role in the return of borrow-



Enders... front line Cold War diplomat

ers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico to the international financial markets." Descended from 18th-century Dutch settlers on his father's side, and from the founders of the Connecticut colony through his mother, Tom Enders was born wealthy and privileged, and excelled early. He picked up master's degrees from Harvard and the Sorbonne, and met his Italian wife while researching a dissertation on medieval Morocco. He was a noted mountaineer, with a passion for gardens.

Martin Walker

Thomas Enders, diplomat, born November 23, 1931; died March 17, 1996

Madhaviah Krishnan

Silent journey to the forest

MADHAVIAH Krishnan, who has died aged 63, was one of those remarkable polymaths that India produces. He was an artist, photographer, writer, poet, scholar of the Southern Indian language Tamil, student of dance and music, and above all a naturalist. His long, thin, face, dominated by a pair of large black spectacles, reflected the man he was — a disciplined, demanding, dedicated perfectionist, who despised the slipshod, and rejected shortcuts. Perhaps best known for his photographs of the animals and plants of the Indian forests, he never took to modern cameras with all their gadgets. He preferred to measure distance and gauge light the way he had always done, keeping his skill honed.

Photography was only one aspect of Krishnan's work as a naturalist. He made long and carefully planned visits to forests, filling his notebook with his observations. He demanded the strictest discipline of anyone who accompanied him into the forests. One of his sishyas, or disciples, said: "You spoke when you were spoken to, in monosyllables." Travelling with him into the forests must have been an alarming experience because he had a legendary temper, and did not suffer fools gladly.

Krishnan felt a particular affinity for the Indian elephant, saying often: "I am more than half an elephant myself." But he did not limit his studies to that animal. Some of his photographs of Indian tigers are outstanding. He was proud that on one occasion he put right the famous Indian ornithologist, Salm Allen. Krishnan's drawings show his skill in observing plants and trees.

The results of his research appeared in his weekly column in the Statesman, an English daily. He started writing for the paper 46 years ago and his final Country Note-book appeared the day before he died. In his obituary the editor of the Statesman wrote: "M Krishnan was an ideal columnist, the dream of every editor. His pieces arrived regularly, they needed no editing, and no correspondence."

Krishnan also wrote for a more scholarly readership. His *Illustrated Report on India's Wildlife* (1975) is acknowledged as a work of rigorous scholarship. He had earlier published a popular collection of writings called *Jungle and Backyard*.

Realising the threat facing the forests of India and their unique plant and animal life Krishnan threw himself into the wildlife protection movement. He was a member of the

Indian Board for Wildlife and played an important role in Project Tiger, launched more than 20 years ago in collaboration with what was then known as the World Wildlife Fund. At that time there was serious danger of the Indian tiger becoming extinct. Although in recent years there has been a revival of teaching the Indian tiger is still to be found in the magnificent national parks protected under Project Tiger. Krishnan's work was recognised by the Indian government, which awarded him the Padma Shri, a national decoration, and by the United Nations Environment Programme, which placed his name on the Global Roll of Honour in 1995.

Wildlife photography apart, Krishnan was also known for his photographs of monuments. He had written short stories and his Tamil novel is due to be published shortly in many ways he was an old-fashioned man. He shunned public life and made no effort to come to the attention of photographers or photographers. He regarded the modern day for travel with distaste. Apart from his visits to the forests rarely left Madras, and newsworthy Indian. He was proud Indian, particularly of his country's unique flora and fauna. It is an appropriate coincidence that his last column in the Statesman was headlined *Exclusivelandian*.

Naturalist was not the career Krishnan was intended for. His father was a writer, but thought that would be a safer career for the youngest of his eight children, so Krishnan went to Madras University to read law. However he never took to the law. At first he began as a commercial artist, but the law would be later to see in the line drawings which often accompanied his articles in the Statesman. He moved to All India Radio for a short time, and after that joined the service of the United States in the princely state of Kanyakumari. He pursued a varied career there, ending up as a senior civil servant. When Sandur was merged with the Indian Union after Partition, Krishnan began his long career as a free journalist, photographer, writer and naturalist.

He and his wife Lumathi, who he married in 1955, had one son, Harikrishna, who has followed in his father's footsteps and is in Chief Conservator of Forests in his home state of Tamilnadu.

Mark Tully

Madhaviah Krishnan, naturalist, born June 30, 1932; died February 19, 1996



Paul Harry with Anna Steiger in ENO's Makropulos Case

Paul Harry

Intensity and passion

PAUL HARRY, who died aged 63, was a tenor whose qualities did not necessarily match the clean standardised performances of the CD age. He was not perhaps the most beautiful voice in conventional terms, but his idiosyncratic phrasing and intensity distinguished all his performances. He could surprisingly capture the essence of the piece in hand and was a real personality on stage. He was memorable as Sam Kaplan in the Aldega opera *Scenes at the Palm Theatre*, where he took to spoken dialogue like a duck to water, and extraordinarily vivid in Sondheim's *Assassins* for Sam Mendes at the Donmar.

His work was marked by a blazing intensity. He always brought total clarity to the text, and sincerity to the dramatic meaning. He took risks, where others might opt for safety. He was a professional's professional, a "company" man, more at home with smaller institutions than the Royal Opera. He would say, typically, "we are all in it together."

He started singing as a boy with the Swanes Bach Choir under John Huw Thomas, who remained a friend. He was at the Royal Northern College, and Guildhall School where his teacher was Rudolf Piernay, with whom he stayed to the end. At the Guildhall he won the BP

Scholarship, the Alfred and Catherine Howard Prize for Tenors, the Mirsky Memorial Prize, and a Mendelssohn scholarship from the Boise Foundation.

His operatic debut came, a couple of weeks earlier than planned, when he took over the role of the then unknown Richard Jones. Paul regretted never singing for his native Welsh National Opera. But he was with all the other British companies, notably as Mime in Jones's *Rheingold* for Scottish Opera. His calling card role was Truffaldino in Jones's *L'Opera For Three Oranges* for Opera North. His presence in so many Jones productions was credit to his remarkable acting. Later work took him abroad, notably to the Netherlands and Israel.

His voice was particularly suited to modern music, where he achieved a feat sadly not witnessed by his many friends. Invited to understudy and rehearse the long title role in David Alder's *Attila*, he became a particularly active production of the new Hebrew opera *Joseph* by Joseph Tal. He enormously impressed the management — as Hanna Munitz of the New

Israel Opera recalled — by his skill not only in the music but in acquiring the ability to sing in Hebrew. As a rare gesture, he was allowed to take over one of the only three performances. His last work was as Truffaldino in another outing for the Jones staging, for Opera Zuid in Holland. His colleagues could see how ill he was, but affectionately rallied to his aid to get him through the performing that has his means of fighting the illness. When he could not fulfill the contract, his only concern was for his doublet colleague, having to sing four nights in a row.

Aidan Lang

Gerald Barry added I first met Paul in 1983 when he played Truffaldino in Jones's *L'Opera For Three Oranges* at the Almeida. He laughed a lot, and a very operatic one is captured in a recording of the opera. I always myself laugh out loud when I hear it.

When I would ask for more and more in what was already an extremely demanding role, he would sigh and then give everything he had. His intensity and passion were rare, and it makes me very sad that they are now gone.

Paul Lewis Harry, opera singer and actor, born September 6, 1957; died March 8, 1996

Birthdays

Marie-Christine Barraut, actress, born 1929; Peter Brook, theatrical producer, 71; Brian Clough, former football manager, 61; Ann Clwyd, Labour MP, 59; Timothy Dalton, actor, 60; Michael Dibdin, crime writer, 45; Geoffrey Dearmer, poet, 103; Iwan Evans, rugby player, 32; Michael Foreman, author, illustrator, 68; Llin Golding, Labour MP, 63; Prof Richard Hare, philosopher, 77; David Heathcoat-Amory, MP, Paymaster-General, 47; Michael Heseltine, MP, Deputy Prime Minister, 63; Antony Hopkins, composer, conductor, broadcaster, 75; Alvin Kallicharran, cricketer, 47; Ann Mackay, soprano, 40; Matthew Maynard, cricketer, 30; Ved Mehta, author and journalist, 62; Baroness Nicol, Labour Whip in the Lords, 73; Gary Oldman, actor, 38; Mike Westbrook, band leader, composer, 60.

Death Notices

DOLAN. Terence Michael Mary Dolan, born 1931, died 1996. Son of John and Mary Dolan. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force.

JAMESON. Kenneth, on 17th March aged 84, long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force.

FREESTLY. On 19th March aged 84, after a long and painful illness, passed peacefully. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force. He was a member of the staff of the Royal Air Force.

Pamelo Mounk'a Sweet voice of the Congo

PAAMELO MOUNK'A, who has died aged 50, was a sweet-voiced, Congolese singer, a distinguished composer and part of the early 1980s African music wave.

Born Mbemba Yvon in Brazzaville's Poto Poto district, Pamelo wrote his first song aged nine. In 1963 he made his debut with premier Congolese band, Les Bantous de la Capitale. In 1964 he crossed the river to Leopoldville — now Kinshasa, Zaire — to join Tabu Ley Rochereau in African Fiesta, one of the top Congolese rumba bands, which became the basis of a

whole school of music. In Brussels they recorded his *Ritmo Del Congo* and other Mounk'a compositions.

Later in 1964, with conflict between the two Congos (Brazzaville and Leopoldville), he returned to the north bank. With the Bantous he toured Cameroon and Senegal and in 1968 recorded his first big hit, *Masuala*.

In the late 1960s Pamelo capitalised on the senkous craze with records which carried his name across Africa. In 1973 he and singer Kosmos Moutouari quit Les Bantous to form Le Peuple du Trio Ce-

paks, but he was later recalled by the Marxist government to rejoin the Bantous for a festival in Cuba.

In 1981 he settled in France and consolidated a solo career. His biggest hit, *L'argent Appelle L'argent* (*Money Calls Money*) sold more than 400,000 copies in Africa, Europe and the Antilles. *Buala Yavi Mambou*, criticising corrupt politicians and money, was also a success. His success was rooted in his dulcet voice and the emotional appeal of his compositions.

From 1988 Pamelo had suffered from diabetes and he returned to Paris where a few months ago he performed at

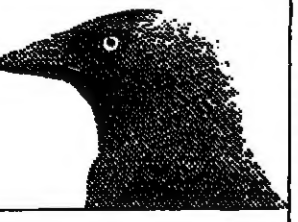
the wedding of another Congolese hero, the guitarist and composer Papa Noel. Late last year he returned to Brazzaville, suffered a relapse and never recovered.

Few Congolese artists have achieved the glory earned by their Zairean neighbours, but Pamelo Mounk'a was appreciated by all. Never formally married, he fathered at least 10 children.

Graeme Evans

Pamelo Mounk'a, musician, born May 10, 1945; died January 14, 1996

Jackdaw



BUNNY boom IT WOULD be good to have a chat with the News Bunny, but we can't. He's standing in the Tanworth by-election, and is spending the day campaigning. A cardboard sign is propped up on his desk, written in magic marker. It says BUNNY GOES TO TAMWORTH BACK TOMORROW. Beside this legend someone has scrawled a carrot.

There is, in short, nothing happening. But today is Friday 9 February. And at 7.01 pm precisely, while Helen is reading a news bulletin, the IRA detonate an enormous bomb at South Quay station, barely half a mile away. As the device

detonates, the whole building moves underfoot, and insulation rains down from the ceiling. The fire alarms go off. The lifts lock. Helen keeps reading the news, but around her there are suddenly people everywhere, running to the windows, to the phones. No one has any idea what has happened. Was it a bomb further down the building? Was it a plane crashing into it? Is there a fire? Are we trapped up here?

It is quickly established that it is a bomb. Where, no one knows. The alarms are still going off. Emerging from his office, Nick Ferrari (Live TV's number two) immediately begins striding about like Montgomery at Alamein. Whatever it was, Live TV has to tell its viewers about it.

"I want a bulletin written for broadcast in two minutes," he tells a reporter. Increasingly mindful of the fact that the building we are standing in might as well be a garishly illuminated 40-storey invitation to say KILL US ALL to every disaffected explosives expert in the British Isles, the reporter wavers. . . . It is at this point that some-

one notices an IRA statement put out on the wire sometime in the last hour. . . . By 7.35 pm, we still don't know where the bomb is. The 94th floor is full of people staring fruitlessly out of the windows into the blackness. Cameras are set up beside them, transmitting inky views of darkened office blocks, glistening water and now, a police helicopter hovering over the dock. . . . Out of nowhere, Kelvin MacKenzie appears, and mawks about in a malign haze of unspenkable power and dark intent, like Darth Vader in a suit. . . . Moments later. . . . he attempts to throw us out of the building. "You've seen enough, haven't you? You can go now, can't you?" Outside the building it's pitch black. Transport in the area is completely frozen.

Emergency services are streaming into the area from all over London. People are gripped by panic. And out there somewhere there is almost certainly another huge explosive device. Suggesting that we go out there for a bit of a walkabout is hardly a compassionate or reasonable suggestion. We refuse. . . . One of

the reporters looks up from her phone and shouts across the office: "No News Bunny for these bulletins, everyone." *Adam Fitzgibbon joins the live and dangerous folk at Live TV, for Sky magazine.*

Key questions

UNTIL just the other day, I thought the computer had greatly enhanced my life and income and, despite some obvious dislocations, those of most other Americans as well. I'm no longer so sure. . . . For nearly two decades, computers have let me set my own type, cutting out the linotypists, proofreaders and compositors who used to turn my words into lead impressions. These congenial colleagues gradually retired and I assumed that the money the company saved was shared with the surviving work force, me included, and with readers, advertisers and shareholders.

Computers have also let me charge my telephone calls from anywhere with no more interruptions from impatient operators. . . . I've assumed that their transformation into

digitised voices has greatly reduced the cost of everyone's phone calls and that the former operators now operate profitable answering services in the comfort of their Nebraska homes. Computers have been depositing my paychecks directly in the bank. . . . And now I have learned to deliver all my tedious tax compilations to a computer. . . . You get the picture: I'm no Luddite. All my life, I have been convinced that technology makes life not only easier but also more productive. And I've been sure that greater productivity meant greater wealth that would be fairly spread among all of us. I know, of course, that computers, like other new machines, would kill jobs, but I assumed they would turn right around and create more and better jobs in the next business cycle. No reason to fear computers, except maybe if you were a chess champion. Well, I'm having some second thoughts. . . . Computers have enriched a small class of technological wizards and management consultants who streamline production, merging and "down-

sizing" and "re-engineering" the companies of America to the great benefit of managers and stockholders. But these same computers have eliminated many jobs and significantly reduced the skills needed in the jobs that survive, thereby weakening the bargaining power and income of most wage earners. . . . Computers are creating more wealth all right, but it is shared mainly by stockholders, top managers and what

Felix Rohatyn calls a "new technological aristocracy". *Max Frankel wonders about the present future in the New York Times magazine.*

Disconnected

SOMETIMES I wonder about this job. Here I am, in the grounds of a mansion in Las Vegas, jostling and craning my neck to get a look at John Wayne Bobbitt's penis. I have been invited, along with two tabloid TV crews, a portrait artist, and a small crowd of hangers-on, to attend the filming of Frankenkpenis, Bobbitt's second hardcore porn video. He is lying on a blanket by a lake, clad in a colourful pair of briefs, his face buried in a set of silicone breasts. Three naked strippers are trying everything they know to rouse the world's most famous penis from its stubborn repose. Here on the sidelines, people are making \$50 nets. Will Bobbitt be able to get it up or, to use the porn industry term, "get wood"? And if so, when? Bobbitt's manager, Aaron Gordon, is pessimistically betting 72 hours. . . . While the crew are

pecking up, I corner the naked, post-coital Bobbitt in the kitchen. His attention deficit disorder makes him a strange interviewee. He has prepared answers which are semi-erected, but they come out more or less at random. Q: John, is it true that you drew a knife under your signature on the divorce papers with Lorena? A: "Going into surgery again was a challenge but I'm a marine, and I thrive on challenge. Q: Are you happy with the new penis? A: "When you make love to a woman, be creative. Assessing and tantalizing and caressing." Q: Do you plan to make a career as an adult video star? A: "I recommend the surgery to anyone. I'm extremely satisfied with the results. I'm like a horse now."

Richard Grant visits the set of John Wayne Bobbitt's latest movie for Esquire.

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk. Fax 0171-713 4368. Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

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Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

High street spending rises

City sceptical about further rate cuts

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

THE CITY was last night... sceptical about the prospect of further interest rate cuts...

month's figures — retail sales were 0.7 per cent up on the previous quarter...

New hopes of end to housing recession

Tony May and Larry Elliott

MORTGAGE lenders and house builders yesterday expressed cautious optimism that the seven-year recession in the property market is over...

Notebook

Regulators keep firm grip on BT



Edited by Alex Brummer

THE bad blood which has marred the relationship between Ofel and British Telecom may have been leached out...

ral justice prevented the SFA from proceeding against them. Incompetent Messrs Baring and Tuckey may have been...

Lord of the rings issues 6m cards

A £100 million upgrade of the BT Chargecard service has left Danny Jennings (right), head of card services...



City buries hatchet on order-driven trading

Patrick Donnan
City Editor

THE warring factions within the London Stock Exchange are attempting to patch up their row over the future of City share trading...

tion will be unopposed suggests that there has been a huge about-turn by big market makers such as BZW...

plans for an order-driven market which electronically matches buy and sell orders.

ing the findings of a consultation by the Stock Exchange authorities, and rubbish claims by the ousted Mr Lawrence...

Germany acts to stamp out new wave of corruption

Kevin Liffey in Bonn

A WAVE of corruption cases in business and public administration has forced the German government to put forward tougher prison sentences...

US banks caught out by computer leasing scheme

Mark Tron in New York

AMERICAN banks allegedly have been conned out of hundreds of millions of dollars by a man and a woman posing as executives of tobacco group Philip Morris...

French throw weight behind Airbus rejig

Mark Miller
European Business Editor

CHANGES to the corporate structure at Airbus Industrie this summer appear more likely...

scribing the French group's chief executive as saying that he was "completely in favour of this; he's even said that it should be done as soon as possible"

manufacturing work is parcelled out among the partners. Aerospatiale and Dasa each account for 36 per cent of Airbus...

arrangement is both inefficient and cumbersome, which is why a special committee is already looking at possible changes...

lar the mark and the French franc. A special committee is already looking at possible changes and is due to present its conclusions at the end of May or early June.

Guardian Live Wire debate

TUC General Secretary John Monks will be our guest for the second Guardian Live Wire Debate on the internet next Sunday from 7pm to 9pm.

US banks caught out by computer leasing scheme

Mark Tron in New York

AMERICAN banks allegedly have been conned out of hundreds of millions of dollars by a man and a woman posing as executives of tobacco group Philip Morris...

Table with columns for country and bank sell rates. Includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA.



In the swim... Land Rover's Jungle Track demonstration ground at Solihull opens to the public today as part of national Science, Engineering and Technology Week. PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN KING

Ministers look at ways to beat agm rowdies

Ian King
THE Government is looking at ways of limiting the disruption of company annual general meetings like those demonstrated recently at British Aerospace, British Gas and Lloyds Bank.

John Taylor, the corporate affairs minister, said yesterday that in many cases agms were "unsatisfactory". He acknowledged, however, that it would be "difficult" to legislate against single-issue pressure groups, which "plagued" some meetings.

But Mr Taylor told the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in London, there were ways of improving the access shareholders had to company boards at agms.

He said the Government was reviewing sections of the Companies Act, which allow shareholders to have resolutions placed on an agm's agenda, but which currently require them to meet the cost of doing so.

The Government was also mulling over a trade and industry select committee suggestion that companies should bear most responsibility for controlling agms. "The behaviour of directors and their resolutions to shareholders is a crucial variable."

He went on: "Requiring the company to meet the costs of circulation could be unfair to shareholders as a whole, and a group of shareholders proposing a resolution might represent a tiny fraction of the voting equity."

"But if shareholders are able to submit their resolutions in time, this concern is diminished."

The past two years have seen an increase in the number of agms disrupted by protesters. Last month, Hanson's agm was interrupted by environmentalists angered at the group's mining activities in the United States.

Lloyds' agm, called to approve the merger with TSB, was suspended after a string of questions from shareholders opposed to the bank's policy on Third World debt.

In the most famous incident of all, the British Gas agm last May was moved to the 10,000-seater Docklands Arena, to accommodate the hundreds of shareholders opposed to chief executive Cedric Brown's pay package.

But Ian Robinson, director-general of the National Association of Pension Funds, said boards should bear most responsibility for controlling agms. "The behaviour of directors and their resolutions to shareholders is a crucial variable."

Blair takes on late payers

Celia Weston
Enterprise Editor
LEADER of the Opposition Tony Blair yesterday laid claim to Labour as the party of small business as he pledged to introduce a legal right for companies to charge interest on late payment of commercial debt.

"I would argue today what a few years ago would have seemed a bold claim, that it is Labour, and not the Conservatives, who appreciate and understand the value of small businesses and the role they can play in creating a gen-

uinely dynamic economy." His speech was warmly welcomed by some representatives of small and medium-sized firms who praised his courage and "useful" policies on late payment. Others, such as the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce, remain vehemently opposed to Labour's late payment proposals.

He said: "We need a society in which we don't have to choose between old-fashioned state control and the Government doing nothing — failed laissez faire."

Mr Blair's latest declaration continues the contest be-

tween Opposition and the Government to woo smaller business voters and follows the Prime Minister's promise last week to continue cutting red tape and to take action soon on late payment. Mr Major said the third competitiveness white paper, due to be published in early June, would contain further measures to help smaller firms while Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang yesterday pledged to deal with tightening up payment times in the autumn.

Fighting to regain the initiative in the current charm offensive, Mr Blair yesterday unveiled Labour's document.

The Growth Agenda, a package of measures aimed at small and growing companies.

On late payment, he said: "Paying your bills late brings a financial gain to the defaulter. We need to create a situation in which late payment is not worth it."

The statutory right to interest should only apply to payment by companies above a certain threshold but government and public agencies should be required to pay their bills within 30 days and publish information about payment practices.

A statutory right to interest was an entitlement, he said,

and it would be up to the creditor to decide whether to use it. "We will consult on the best method of implementing this proposal, so that small firms gain the maximum advantage and we avoid the common fear that small companies will simply end up pursuing other small businesses."

Commenting on Mr Blair's overtures, Teresa Graham, a member of the Government's deregulation task force and of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, said later: "Let's hope this is the start of a real and consistent commitment to the small and medium-sized enterprise sector.

Otherwise, we're all pissing in the wind."

Stan Mendham, chief executive of the Forum of Private Business pressure group, said he was delighted with the tone of Mr Blair's speech, that it had been "courageous stuff" and that New Labour was "definitely shaping up".

Other measures in The Growth Agenda include:

- an "Enterprise Zone" internet site to give easy access to business information;
- enhancing the Business Links network;
- the creation of a database listing British exporters;
- cutting tax compliance costs.

British good in lab but still failing to make it

OUTLOOK/ Larry Elliott on a report showing that Germany and Ireland are better at putting ideas into practice

THE history of innovation in post-war Britain was aptly summed up by the Ealing comedy, *The Man in the White Suit*. A talented scientist (Alec Guinness) discovers a new compound for making indestructible cloth but is prevented — by a coalition of management, Portugal and power — from turning it into a world-beating product.

Ealing's satirical message has been replicated in the real world many times since the film was released 45 years ago.

Britain has a reputation for being brilliant at invention, i.e. raw scientific discovery — but a third division outfit when it comes to innovation, i.e. actually putting the ideas into practice.

A three-country study released yesterday underlines the extent of Britain's problem. Between 1991 and 1993 a survey was undertaken of 3,500 manufacturing firms in the UK, Ireland and Germany

to test their record for innovation. The findings are chilling, if familiar. Only 81 per cent of UK firms introduced a new or improved product, against 71 per cent in Germany and 68 per cent in Ireland.

Small UK firms had particularly low innovation rates. Among firms with fewer than 100 employees, 56 per cent brought out a new product or upgraded an old one, against 66 per cent in Germany and 65 per cent in Ireland.

If anything, the survey under-recorded Germany's lead. The period under review saw a sharp post-reunification downturn in the German economy, a turning point in the UK business cycle and strong growth in the Irish economy.

As luck would have it, the Labour leader Tony Blair chose yesterday to go wailing the small business vote. The details of why the UK's innovation record is relatively poor add weight to his analy-

sis of Britain's industrial under-performance. According to research by Queen's University, Belfast, the University of Strathclyde and the Ifo-Institute, Munich, two of Labour's big themes — finance and skill shortages — are hampering innovation in the UK.

Financial constraints on product innovation were more important in the UK than in the other two countries, although the focus of concern was different for small and large companies.

The bigger UK manufacturers tended to cite the risk involved in developing a new product line, while smaller outfits emphasised the lack of innovation finance.

In terms of skills, the difference between Britain's family saloon approach and Germany's Rolls-Royce system of industrial training and high-quality apprenticeships is reflected in the number of new products being developed.

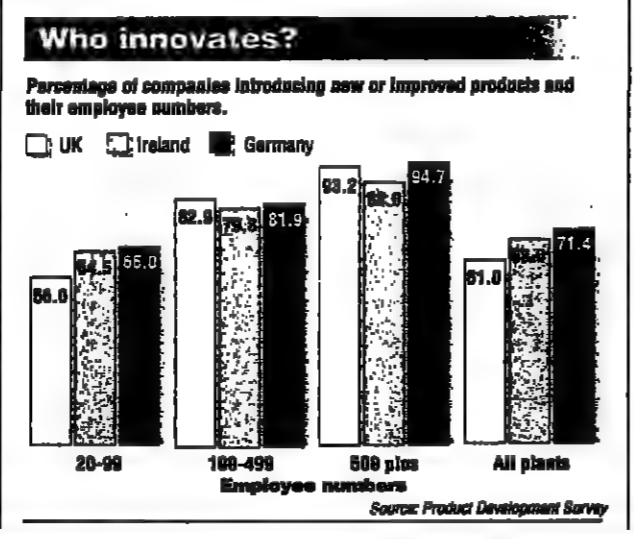
Around one third of British firms said that a lack of skills had hindered their product innovation, compared to only one fifth in Germany.

Among manufacturers with more than 500 employees, the gap was even wider. Almost 40 per cent of large UK firms reported that innovation had been significantly constrained by skill shortages, against only 14 per cent of similar plants in Germany and 17 per cent in Ireland.

The report found that product innovation is strongly linked to business growth, with sales of innovative UK firms rising 7 per cent a year against 5.1 per cent for those who kept faith with their old products.

It concluded that the efforts by the Government and others had led to some improvements in Britain's training and industrial finance, but added: "Many UK firms operate in an environment which is less conducive to innovation than that in which German firms operate. Long-term action to address these issues will be necessary if the level of innovative activity of UK businesses is to be raised."

Product Innovation and Development in UK, German and Irish Manufacturing: Northern Ireland Economic Research Centre, 46 University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NJ. Price £20.



Avocet to mine London

Ian King
AVOCET Mining, a gold and tungsten mining group with interests in Peru, Malaysia, Portugal and the United States, has confirmed plans for an Easter flotation on the London market, raising £10 million and valuing it at \$85 million.

Apart from RTZ-CRA, the world's biggest mining group, Avocet will be the only British-owned, British-run and London-based pure mining company fully quoted on the London market.

Avocet, which was set up in 1987 by chief executive Jocelyn Waller, a former execu-

tive of South African mining and industrial conglomerate Anglo American, is to list in London at the behest of institutional investors in Canada, where it is quoted on the Vancouver stock exchange.

Mr Waller said world tungsten prices, which have been depressed over recent years due to cheap Chinese and Russian exports being "dumped" on world markets, were set to recover sharply. Now there is a shortage as Chinese stocks have dried up.

Avocet is also investing several million dollars in its Peruvian gold activities, where it employs only local workers.

"We have a strict policy of no gringos," Mr Waller said.

strengths lie in gold mining — it fought off rivals, including Australian giant BHP, to win its main Malaysian licence — it is also emerging as a key tungsten producer.

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"We have a strict policy of no gringos," Mr Waller said.

Bass faces heady prospect

Sarah Whitelbourn
BASS and Allied Domecq yesterday refused to comment on mounting speculation about the possible multi-million-pound sale of Allied's half share in Carlsberg Tetley, the UK's third-largest brewing group.

Both companies maintained total silence during the day. But City brokers argued that the incumbent hurdles — including extremely complex difficulties with the competition authorities — put a possible deal a long way off.

It has long been predicted that Allied would dispose of its stake in its joint venture

with the Danish brewing giant Carlsberg. Allied's core business now centres around wines, spirits and pubs retailing — not traditional brewing.

But senior industry insiders urged calm yesterday, insisting that no deal is yet in sight. One City expert said: "These sort of things take months rather than weeks or days."

Brokers pointed out that any move between the large drinks houses arouses intense interest from competition authorities including the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies Commission. One analyst said last night: "Another problem is that Allied

simply wants too much." City estimates suggest that the stake is worth around £100 million.

Nevertheless, the rumours saw the shares in both Allied and Bass rise on the day. Allied's quote closed the day 6p up at 497p. Bass rose 5p to close at 745p.

Should Bass succeed in taking over Allied's 50 per cent stake it would leapfrog Scottish and Newcastle to become the UK's largest brewer. But instead of securing the competition regulators' support before taking the plunge, it would almost certainly face several more months at the negotiating table before the deal was allowed.

Underside

Dan Atkinson
CAROL GALLEY, deputy chairman of Mercury Asset Management, has found that those St Valentine's Day bouquets from Forte shareholders, thankful for her role in hornking out Sir Rocco and selling out to Granada, have been replaced by hate mail.

Foison-pen letters have arrived, we hear, from assorted chambermaids, bell-boys and others now feeling the lash of the new management.

Some people, it seems, just don't understand what shareholder value is all about.



NEXT WEEK sees the opening of Allied Domecq's new sports bar, Football Football, in the Haymarket, London, with celebs such as Newcastle's Keith Gillespie and

Manchester United's Lee Sharpe. According to the publicity there will be a hologram of Terry Venables and a walking, talking waxwork of George Best.

"There should be a few genuine bar-room brawls there too," was the reaction of one City analyst.

FROM the man who brought you Domino Pizza and Cluckers rotisserie chickens comes a new concept — Bar Fades. OK, so it's actually called South Beach Café, but anywhere offering "the latest eating fashions from America" and such treats as fresh wheat-grass cocktails ("said, to clear toxins") is bound to attract infernal associations. Tom Burnham, a former executive vice-president at Domino's, is floating this new British

venture; also on the board is the intriguingly-named Richard Other Prickett. As if you needed any further deterrent, the cafés are described as "a fun place to meet, talk, plan or just hang out, maybe listening to live music or surfing the Internet". Mr Burnham is adjunct professor of franchising and international business at Dallas University. No, really.

ERM Revisited: The publication of Politics and the Pound, the book by the FT's Philip Stephens about Britain's glorious liberation from the Everlasting Recession Machine, is a welcome antidote to the attempts by the Government (and Labour, for that matter) to convince the public that White Wednesday never existed.

One omission, though, is that when at luncheon on September 16 the pan-stricken cabal of ministers and officials decided to put up interest rates to 15 per cent as a gambler's last throw, nobody thought to mention it to the Treasury press office. Staff there only found out when a journalist rang to ask if it were true.

MEANWHILE, Pearson's 1994 purchase of educational video-game company Mindscape (products include Deathcap; "unspeakable evil, relentless evil, pure evil") seems to carry the sort of jinx that would be appreciated by the Mindscape clientele. Bought for £330 million, Mindscape has lost £7 million in the last year. Fur-

thermore, on at least a half a dozen occasions during this week's presentation by Pearson of its figures to the City, the mastermind of the group's expansion, managing director Frank Barlow, screwed up the slide presentation. Unspeakable evil, relentless evil etc etc.

TUESDAY'S Budget, while not exactly exciting, did manage to increase tax allowances while moving Government finances into surplus for the first time in five years. Widows, parents, electricity consumers and borrowers of state mortgages and tourist loans all did well. Too bad for Three Pints's long-suffering mainland serfs that this Budget was presented by a certain DJ Gelling, Treasury minister for the Isle of Man.

'Brownfield' threat

THOUSANDS of new jobs could be created across the North of England by restoring abandoned "brownfield" sites to industrial use, the Country Landowners Association claimed yesterday. But proposals threatening "horrendous" clean-up costs for polluted land were discouraging developers, said the CLA.

New owners faced being forced to pay pollution bills where original culprits could not be traced. Offences might have been committed a century ago, said the CLA. Yorkshire and Humberside regional secretary Ian Kibble said doubts raised by the new Environment Act proposals were forcing developers to look to the government for a review of legal proposals, to devise "incentives rather than penalties". — *Maryn Haisall*

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Racing

Nwaamis can win the beer money for Dunlop

Ron Cox looks at opening day of the Flat and highlights future prospects

JOHN DUNLOP, champion trainer for last season, is wasting no time declaring his intentions for the new campaign.

He is a comparatively rare visitor at the opening day of the Flat and highlights future prospects

Doncaster card with guide to the form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including race name, time, and participants.

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Ten to follow

CAP JULUCA (4yo): Something of a rarity, a big-race winner not Arab-owned. Progressed to win the Cambridge under 9st 10lb and should hold his own in the listed and Pattern company.

MARK OF ESTREEM (3yo): Touched off by Alhaarth prior to trotting up at Goodwood, this Darshaan colt is reported to have thrived since wintering in the States.

Pat Eddery's mount can take this on the way to better things. It always a gamble whether recent all-weather track winners will reproduce their form back on turf.

Roger Charlton is another trainer not renowned as an early starter, but he reports his horses more forward than usual owing to a new all-weather gallop at his Beckingham base.

A Derby entry, Jackson Hill came home a smooth winner of a seven furlong Doncaster maiden race late last season on only his second outing.

Berry Hills has withdrawn his intended Brocklesby runner Cadeaux Cher, who can reportedly go a bit, but can get on the score sheet with the winner.



Grand chance... Rough Quest back on the National trail and favourite for the Aintree marathon on Saturday week

Quest back in National picture

ROUGH QUEST is back in the reckoning for the Martell Grand National at Aintree on Saturday week. He was initially ruled out of the race after finishing second to Imperial Call in the Gold Cup last Thursday but trainer Terry Casey says the gelding could well take his chance.

Wincanton National Hunt programme

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including race name, time, and participants.

Plumpton (N.H.)

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Wincanton National Hunt programme

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Results

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RACELINE COMENTARY RESULTS table with columns for race number, name, and results.

FA CUP SOCCER

Sixth round replays: Liverpool 3, Leeds United 0

McManaman doubles clear of the deadlock

LIVERPOOL moved forward last night, with more discomfort than they may have anticipated...

McAllister and Yeboah, but surprisingly there was also room for Speed a month after his fractured cheekbone had necessitated the insertion of three metal plates...

Yet McManaman's progress down the left wing was so effortlessly mesmerising that there was magic in the air every time the ball lay at his feet...

Had suggested that Leeds's ambition would embrace nothing grander than safe passage through to a late-night penalty competition...

ferocious blow with his left foot did the rest. In short McManaman was the difference, and with 18 minutes remaining he struck a second blow...

Liverpool James McAllister, Wright, Scorer, Fardick, Jones, McManaman, Thomas, Barnes, Fowler, Collymore, Leeds United Lulich, Kelly, Redden, Pemberton, Worthington, Ford, Gray, Gorman, Palmer, McAllister, Speed, Yeboah, Dean.

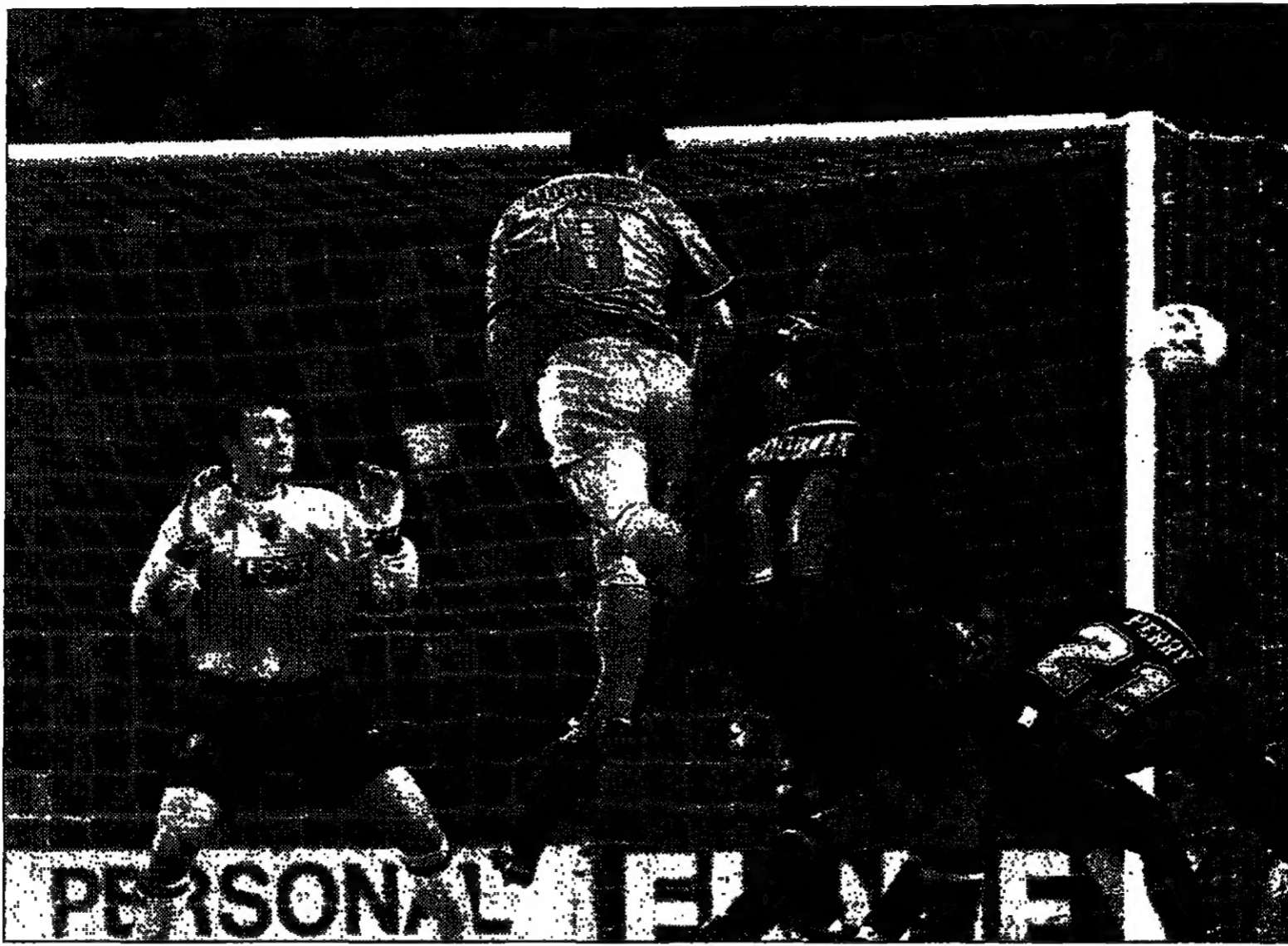
Liverpool James McAllister, Wright, Scorer, Fardick, Jones, McManaman, Thomas, Barnes, Fowler, Collymore, Leeds United Lulich, Kelly, Redden, Pemberton, Worthington, Ford, Gray, Gorman, Palmer, McAllister, Speed, Yeboah, Dean.

Wimbledon 1, Chelsea 3

Hughes ices Chelsea's cup cake

THE prospect of meeting Manchester United in Sunday week's semi-final at Villa Park produced another jolly knock-out of a match between the last two London sides left in the Cup in last night's replay at Selhurst Park...

bench, Chelsea's attack needed the Dutchman's strength in the air as well as his other skills. Nevertheless it was a shot rather than a header from Gullit, driven in fiercely from the right after Wise's square pass had created the chance...



Off the Mark... Hughes heads wide as Chelsea put Wimbledon's goal under pressure at Selhurst Park last night

net from a narrow angle. With Sullivan pushing a close-range shot from Hughes over the bar, Chelsea appeared to have the initiative...

near the 18-yard line and produced a thunderous right hook of a shot that rebounded from the post.

Wimbledon, peppering their opponents' penalty with centres and with Jones a curiously studious influence in midfield, had their persistence rewarded seven minutes before half-time.

saved and a shot driven just wide - that suggested Wimbledon were not quite done yet.

Wimbledon: Sullivan; Cunningham, Perry, Blackwell, Kimble, Earle, Jones, Lovinhanden, Harriott, Goodman, Ekoku, Chelsea: Hitchcock, Deberry, Lee, Clarke, Petrescu, Gullit, Burley, Wain, Phelan, Spencer, Hughes.

More Georgian joy for City

THE Georgian influence that is proving so valuable in Manchester City's battle against relegation was strengthened yesterday when the Department for Education and Employment granted a work permit to the striker Mikhail Ivanov...

Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final against Leeds United at Wembley on Sunday are looking increasingly slim. The striker has missed the side's last nine games with a thigh injury and Villa's manager Brian Little said: "Tommy has been out a long time and to expect him to play on Sunday is perhaps too much."

Premiership: Southampton 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Saints lose balance on a black Wednesday

SOUTHAMPTON are more adept at avoiding the drop than a high-wire walker, but the safety net was whipped away last night and they are now in grave danger of relegation after 18 years in the top flight.

One Premiership point would have been useful but the fact that all three slipped meant it was imperative that Saints learned how to win again last night, with matches to come against their fellow strugglers Coventry and Queens Park Rangers.

the moment it is missing and with no one else capable of providing it Woods had a quiet night in the Wednesday goal.

Sheridan was booked after 63 minutes for an innocuous challenge on Le Tissier, who moments earlier had glared at Newsome for no apparent reason.

Southampton: Seaman; Dodd, Hall (Robson), Hall, Mowles, Charlton, Le Tissier, Magilton, Venson, Widrigsson, Shippley (Warren, Spink), Wilson. Sheffield Wednesday: Woods; Nicol, Newsome, Walker, Briscoe, Sheridan, Degryse, Pennington, Whittington, Binkler, Sillis, Hirst (Kovacevic, G). Referee: M. Bodenham (East Loos).

Croft is Blackburn target

BLACKBURN's manager Ray Harford is ready to launch his promised spending spree by signing Grimsby Town's highly promising full-back Gary Croft, writes Ian Ross.

Todd yesterday lodged a £250,000 offer for Bradford City's goalkeeper Gavin Ward, and although it was rejected Todd is likely to make a higher bid.

Basketball

English snub All-Star game

THE All-Star game went ahead in Leicester last night despite a boycott by English players. Seven of the 24 selected refused to appear in the showpiece game in protest at the Budweiser League's decision to remove the limit on the number of foreigners allowed to each club.

Results

FA CUP Sixth-round replays Liverpool 3, Leeds United 0. Wimbledon 1, Chelsea 3. Southampton 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1.

Rugby League

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: First Division: Bradford 1, Hull 0. Second Division: Wakefield 1, Leeds 0.

Rugby Union

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Ireland 17-15, Scotland. Wales 17-15, Scotland.

Ice Hockey

USA: Dallas 4, Toronto 5. Florida 5, Philadelphia 2. Vancouver 1, Colorado 4.

Wright... renaissance man

Wright... renaissance man

Career that Gerry rebuilt

lan Ross on how Mark Wright was inspired by a Mersey music idol

Career that Gerry rebuilt

lan Ross on how Mark Wright was inspired by a Mersey music idol

THERE are many different aspects to Mark Wright's renaissance.

During the dark days of the past two years, he attempted first to analyse and then to rectify a storyline that had gone horribly wrong.

His family and team-mates provided reliable sounding boards but it was the advice and encouragement of a neighbour, Gerry Marsden of Pacemakers fame, which helped him stay afloat.

"He was terrific, he inspired me to come back," Wright said yesterday. "He kept on telling me that I was still a good player and that I should believe in myself. He pointed out I had two young boys who would be proud to see their father play for Liverpool. He gave me a hard time; he was like a father figure to me."

For one so amiable and articulate, Wright is no stranger to controversy. For both club and country he has prompted fierce, uncharacteristic condemnation from the meekest of managers. He is the mild man with the track record of an enfant terrible.

He has made 43 senior appearances for England - the last was against Spain 3½ years ago - since his introduction against Wales back in 1984. Therein lies the tragedy.

Even those who found his youthful over-confidence off-putting were willing to concede that he was arguably England's finest footballing centre-back of his generation.

"I have had some nasty injuries at his times, and perhaps I have the sort of face which doesn't always fit," he said. "I broke a leg shortly before the 1986 World Cup finals and was discarded by England for two years after the 1988 European Championship in the first team."

At the age of 32 Wright should be contemplating winning his 100th cap rather than the 44th. "No one ever gives up on England; or at least they shouldn't," he said this week as whispers of a recall first began to drift out of Lancaster Gate.

"If you are playing regularly at a club like Liverpool there is always going to be a chance. All I have done this season is work hard and concentrate on staying in the first team."

These days Wright's boyish smile illuminates Anfield. It was not always so. In the summer of 1994 it seemed he was being unobtrusively ushered towards the Anfield exit by the harsh words of Liverpool's manager Roy Evans.

Having succeeded Graeme Souness, who had bought Wright from Derby County three years earlier, Evans was preparing his squad for a pre-season tour of Germany and Norway.

A fixture against Bolton was designed to sharpen minds and stretch sleepy muscles. But Liverpool were humiliated 4-1 and Evans decided that heads had to roll.

Wright, with another expensive Swiss import, Julian Dicks, was withdrawn from the tour party and told he must stay behind and train with Liverpool's youngsters.

Dicks was labelled overweight, Wright's "attitude" was called into question. Both were publicly humiliated and neither seemed to have a future at Liverpool. A few months later Dicks returned to West Ham United, but Wright remained.

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Rugby Union

Clubs and country head for conflict

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND'S leading clubs are set for a tug of war with the Rugby Football Union for the services of their top players in the build-up to next season's international matches. Cliff Brittle, chairman of the RFU executives, will meet club representatives from Courage Leagues One and Two at London's East India Club today to try to resolve the deadlock over player availability and the scheduling of league and cup fixtures. In an attempt to ease fixture congestion and lessen the burden on international players, the RFU has proposed August 31 as the starting date for National League matches and has suggested staging next season's Pilkington Cup final on May 10, a week later than usual. European Cup fixtures, which involve English clubs for the first time, would be played on six successive Saturdays from October 12 onwards, with the final on January 4.

However, a club-versus-country conflict over the availability of players in the weekend before each international looks set to undermine the fragile relationship between English First Division Clubs Limited and the RFU. Significantly, a players' draft contract currently circulating among the clubs seeks to deny the RFU the automatic right to transfer players for internationals, even though that right was affirmed last year in a directive from the International Board. The issue of player availability could become acute during the 1997 Five Nations Championship when the England management will hold its customary two-day training sessions in the weekend

Another Widnes convert for Sale

SALE signed a second former Wales player who "went North" last night when Adrian Hadley, the recently released Widnes RL winger, switched codes again on a three-year contract, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. Like his Widnes teammate and fellow Wales RU cap John Devereux, who is to combine Super League duties this summer with winter rugby union, Hadley will not be seen in Courage league action with Sale until next season. The 33-year-old Hadley left Cardiff to go professional with Saleford in 1988 after scoring 18 tries in 27 appearances on the wing for Wales.

before each game. At present Pilkington Cup matches are planned for the weekends before England face Scotland on February 1 and France on March 1, and there are League One matches before the away games against Ireland on February 15 and Wales on March 15. The question of who holds each player's contract will be crucial. This season the top players have been contracted solely to the RFU, but that will change this summer when these players have to sign terms of employment with their chosen clubs. It is likely that members of the England squad will attempt to negotiate dual contracts with club and union in order to retain their freedom to play representative rugby as well as when they see fit. Indeed, established England players who have earned

about £36,000 each from international rugby this season may decide simply to draw a weekly salary from their clubs without raising their signatures to any contract other than with the RFU.

There could be a clash of interest between the European Cup, which stages its last round of games on November 15, and England's first international of the season, against Italy at Twickenham on November 23.

No English club involved in the latter stages of the competition would be willing to release international players merely for a squad weekend. On the other hand, no England coach would want to be without key players when preparing his squad for a tough curtain-raiser. Clearly something has to give.

AmORL is seeking court orders to prevent the competition starting, and Lindsay said that players and coaches would abide by the law if the tournament was forbidden to start. He denied that the competition had been arranged before the breakdown of compromise talks between the Super League players and the ARL. "This alternative competition was not the preferred option but it will now be a genuine rugby league Premiership," he said.

Although Global League can only complicate matters, there were still some hopeful signs yesterday including a long round of talks which involved all 20 established clubs. Afterwards the rival factions were said to be closer to agreement than for a long time. If agreement is reached it will almost certainly come too late to prevent many clubs fielding weak sides when the new ARL season, three weeks behind schedule, finally gets under way tomorrow.

Already two classes of rugby player, well-represented in the competition amongst "amateurs", seem to be on the way.



Someone mechanical to watch over me... Faldo putts. Leadbetter assesses, and the drive for a sixth major title goes on

Rugby League

Lindsay leads ARL rebels into non-Super League

Paul Fitzpatrick

JUST when the smoke of a political dispute was clearing in Australia, along comes Global League, a 10-team competition announced to start on the same day as the European Super League, March 29. Global League would be run by and for the benefit of the 31 "rebel" players who signed contracts with Rupert Murdoch's Australasian Super League and who now refuse to play under the Australian Rugby League banner.

Nevertheless a representative of the players, Nick Carson, said he saw no legal reason why the players could not stage this competition nor any reason why Lindsay should not act as an adviser. Lindsay, who is reported to

plus eight from the areas of the Super League clubs. There would be 18 rounds of competition, followed by a play-off by the top five clubs, which in turn would be followed by a world play-off involving European clubs. Global League would have no connection with Murdoch's News Corporation, said Lindsay. But it sounds like Super League by another name, and under the terms of Justice Burchett's rulings it may be illegal. "It won't get off the ground," the ARL's executive chairman Ken Atherton said bluntly.

Nevertheless a representative of the players, Nick Carson, said he saw no legal reason why the players could not stage this competition nor any reason why Lindsay should not act as an adviser. Lindsay, who is reported to



Lindsay... Sydney role

be negotiating sponsorship deals for the players, is confident that income generated from television and sponsorship will prevent many clubs fielding weak sides when the new ARL season, three weeks behind schedule, finally gets under way tomorrow.

He denied that the competition had been arranged before the breakdown of compromise talks between the Super League players and the ARL. "This alternative competition was not the preferred option but it will now be a genuine rugby league Premiership," he said. Although Global League can only complicate matters, there were still some hopeful signs yesterday including a long round of talks which involved all 20 established clubs. Afterwards the rival factions were said to be closer to agreement than for a long time. If agreement is reached it will almost certainly come too late to prevent many clubs fielding weak sides when the new ARL season, three weeks behind schedule, finally gets under way tomorrow.

For this is where the mechanical man of golf comes in for maintenance or, if necessary, overhaul. This is where perfect practising conditions are no more than a short golf

Why Faldo stays on for headbanging with Ledd

David Davies reports from Orlando, Florida, where golf's most celebrated swing guru is on emergency extra duties this week

NICK FALDO stood on the 18th tee in last Wednesday's Bay Hill pro-am, finishing off a not particularly distinguished round. Two video cameras were trained on him, one from behind, the other from the side. He hit his tee shot, watched it finish, and then as his amateur partners went through their motions he watched the instant playback of his swing. Then the other camera's tape was viewed and analysed in its turn.

This was Orlando, home last week to the Bay Hill Invitational but home every week to the David Leadbetter School of Swing Dissection, Redistribution and Resurrection. Its leading pupil is of course Faldo, and for him the week of the Bay Hill event represents a seventh year with Leadbetter. He has his school at Lake Nona, where Faldo has his American base. It is only 20 minutes from the Bay Hill club, which means Faldo can be at home and on the range all week. This year he is also talking this coming weekend off, so while the US Tour moves on to New Orleans for the Preempt Classic he is staying behind.

For this is where the mechanical man of golf comes in for maintenance or, if necessary, overhaul. This is where perfect practising conditions are no more than a short golf

ride from the breakfast table and where the advice he prizes more than any in the world is available instantly. Faldo, perhaps more than any man in the history of the game, loves studying, and tinkering with, his own swing. free his mind from the memory of six missed greens in the first round, all through pulled second shots. And so the analysis goes on. Asked at Bay Hill if he had rid himself of the cause of those pulled shots he replied:

It is almost unhealthily obsessive, a search for a level of perfection that cannot exist in an action with so many moving parts and performed by a human being

action with so many moving parts and performed by a human being. Deep down, he is sufficiently clever to realise it, Faldo must know this. But he has, for periods, experienced perfection, times when he felt the ball was on a string and could be directed wherever he chose. There were times in 1990 and more times in 1992 when he knew, absolutely, before going to the course, that he was going to play well even by his high standards, and logic tells him that if that can be achieved once it can be done again. He is relentless in his search, ruthless even; it is a side to his nature he evidently has difficulty controlling. But then in that he gets help from Ledd.

For most of the past 15 years Faldo's obsession has meant that he has been surrounded by golf. Everything he does, right down to the things he eats and drinks and the time he goes to bed, is dictated by golf. The solitary window in that bleak outlook has been his two wives, Melanie and Gill, neither of whom has been a golfer. Now it seems that by taking up with Brenna Cepelak, a single-figure player who was on the Arizona university golf team, he has slammed shut even that window. There is no one close to him who cannot talk, or indeed would not prefer to talk, about pronation, supination, rotation; about birdies, bogeys and pars. And so the obsession goes on.

Feherty happy to return to the fray after three-month retirement

Michael Britten in Lisbon

THREE months after his retirement to become a commentator for American television, David Feherty relaunches his European career in the Portuguese Open here today. Feherty, aged 37, is back after a disastrous attempt to establish himself on the US Tour which ended with him losing his card and embroiled in an acrimonious divorce. His home is still in Dallas but he is now an enthusiastic transatlantic

commuter, aiming to regain the Ryder Cup place he secured while winning five European titles and more than £1.5 million in a 15-year campaign. His new zest for the game stems from the encouragement of the Ryder Cup captain Seve Ballesteros, of his close friend Sam Torrance, and of a Mississippi sales executive, Anita Schneider, whom he plans to marry this year after her Leap Year proposal. Ballesteros told Feherty, when they played in Dubai last week, that he wanted

him back in the European team at Valderrama in 1997. The Irishman admits his decision to retire was largely engendered by his marital problems. "I felt suicidal about them sometimes, but then I often feel like that about my putting," he remarked. "I had got to a crossroads in my life, but it was more like spaghetti junction. I just had too many things to sort out to think about golf." Feherty, who had two top-four finishes in South Africa recently, intends to play 20 tournaments in

Europe this year but says he might try again to play in the US, where he will be commenting on the US Tour event at Atlanta immediately before the US Masters. "I feel I have something to prove to them," he said. Meanwhile, the Aroeira course 10 miles south of the Portuguese capital should not be too demanding. Only 6,600 yards, it meanders through a pine forest. Over 40in of rain in two months have left it soft and inviting, although the greens are some way below their best.

TV and Sport

Duo with walletful of clout

John Duncan on the Sports Council's leading players

RODNEY WALKER and Derek Casey may not be as graceful as Torvill and Dean, as terrifying as Lilley and Thomson, or as idiosyncratic as Clough and Taylor, but few duos in British sport have their power. In the past two years the pair, respectively chairman and chief executive of the Sports Council, have seen the National Lottery increase their grant-aid budget from £49 million to £300 million, money they have distributed for the future benefit of elite and grassroots sport. That sum is set to grow even more in the next six months, with a proposed five per cent of all future sports-rights money "top-sliced" and directed to fertilising grassroots sport, now that the House of Lords has accepted the council's proposed code of conduct for governing bodies and broadcasters after the debate on the Broadcasting Bill.

In the past 12 months the council has been handed the purse strings for the new £200 million national stadium, has been given responsibility for the Government's pet project, the £100 million elite Academy of Sport, and has organised a massive national junior sports programme. It all seems a long time ago that the council was something of a joke, a black hole of bureaucracy into which good ideas and money were never seen again, an unavoidable nuisance to governments who cared little about sport.

"The day I arrived in my office," said Walker, "the only thing on my desk was a highly critical report from the Public Accounts Committee into the working of some of our subsidiary companies." The council has had to knock itself into shape quickly. "The speed of change in sport in the past 12 months has been quite extraordinary," said Casey. "The lottery, the question of amateurism, and the role of television have all come into play. We have had to adapt, become more knowledgeable about areas we weren't really involved in before, and at the same time set an agenda and take the lead on things. I think in 40 years' time people will say that we have been extraordinary to be around in the mid-90s, when sport got a political profile, a new national stadium and a national academy."

Walker's background as a no-nonsense barrister and businessman — his handsome borders on an act of aggression — and company troubleshooter for merchant banks has helped. "By good fortune I arrived at the Sports Council at a time when the Government decided to refocus it and the National Lottery was about to be launched," he said. "But if the council does find itself 18 months on having more respect than it used to have, then we have earned it." True enough. A flexible approach to lottery grants promptly headed off early criticism over lack of money for inner cities, over the need for more funds and over the problems of what the money could be used for. Now the Government uses the council for advice, and parliament listens to its say. Now it seems that by taking up with Brenna Cepelak, a single-figure player who was on the Arizona university golf team, he has slammed shut even that window. There is no one close to him who cannot talk, or indeed would not prefer to talk, about pronation, supination, rotation; about birdies, bogeys and pars. And so the obsession goes on.

Sport in brief

Weightlifting
The British lifter Peter May has been banned for life after testing positive for an anabolic steroid. He was one of several lifters who were positive at last November's world championships in China, where he finished 15th in the 300lb class. Last night the International Weightlifting Federation would confirm only the suspensions of May and German's Stephanie Utsch because it was still waiting for results of the B-sample analysis in the other cases. Wally Holland, general secretary of the British federation, said May's case would be discussed at a meeting on Saturday week.

Bowls
England's Tony Alcock and Andy Thompson stayed on course for a semi-final place after the third day of the world championships in Adelaide when they coasted to a 29-9 win over Guernsey's Jon Cepelak and Gerrie Simzen. They then survived a comeback by the Zambian pair Jacob Vandercanter and Arthur Kayesa before comfortably winning 28-21.

Badminton
The first foreigner employed on a full-time basis in the 103-year history of the Badminton Association of England was announced yesterday, writes Richard Jago. Asger Madsen, a Dane based in Gothenburg, will take over as England Talent Coach on July 1.

Squash
An experimental scoring system will be used at the eight-man Equitable Life Super Series tournament beginning today in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, writes Richard Jago. The system has one point per rally up to nine, with a tie-breaker at 8-8. England's Mark Chaloner will take on Pakistan's World Open champion Jansher Khan today.

Table Tennis
England may be without their two leading players for a crucial European Men's League Super Division relegation play-off with Poland at Bletchley tonight. Matthew Syed, the England No. 1, faces a fitness test on a hamstring problem and Chen Ximhua is in China on business and may not reach the venue in time.

Cricket

Ruling blow for Emburey
JOHN EMBUREY, who recently joined Northamptonshire as coach, was given the freedom to play for his new county yesterday but with a qualification rule that could still force him to retire from the first-class game. The 43-year-old off-spinner, who left Middlesex during the winter after 22 seasons, has been told by the Test and County Cricket Board that he can play only as a List One registration.

Emburey, who won his 64th Test cap last summer, has been confirmed as List One because he was offered a two-year contract by Middlesex. Coach and county must now decide whether his on-field qualities, and his age, justify them using one of only two List One registrations allowed in any five-year period. Anjay Muhammad, a 24-year-old left-arm wrist spinner who spent two years training as a Hafiz — the Muslim equivalent of a priest — has given up that career and signed a one-year contract with Worcestershire.

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FRENCHMAN'S BRILLIANCE BREAKS GUNNERS' RESISTANCE



Firing on all cylinders... Manchester United's midfielder Roy Keane lets fly and Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp can only hold a watching brief

Premiership: Manchester United 1, Arsenal 0

Cantona puts United level at top

Cynthia Bateman

THEY deserved it, played brilliantly for the 32-year-old Liverpool... but despite United's obvious appetite, by half-time the myriad chances had got them absolutely nowhere.

but despite United's obvious appetite, by half-time the myriad chances had got them absolutely nowhere. It was compelling viewing nevertheless for the crowd of 50,028.

Bruce galloped forward with the ball. His shot bobbed alarmingly towards Seaman but finished in the goalkeeper's arms. Bruce was partnered in the centre of defence by May, allowing Gary Neville to play at right-back in place of the injured Irwin.

Giggs shot wide and had another effort turned round the post by the goalkeeper, and Keane's stinging drive was just wide. Then in the 10th minute Keane hit the inside of the far post, the ball bouncing out to Cole, whose effort was blocked by the horizontal Seaman's legs.

Hillier at half-time, again played just behind them. Only United errors seemed likely to let them in. Phil Neville's clearance early in the second half gave them such a chance. It hit Bruce and bounced for Hartson, who lashed in a shot but struck Schmeichel's legs.

But was headed out by Linighan. Cantona chested it down and his dipping volley from 25 yards sailed over the massed ranks of blue shirts and dropped behind the keeper with incredible precision to give United the lead in the 66th minute.

Lords giveth so V-chip can take away



Vincent Hanna

YESTERDAY I had a word with Tim Collings, who could do a lot for British sport - not to mention British sanity. He is a professor of engineering in Vancouver, and we need his help. I'll get to him in a minute.

The Broadcasting Bill completed its passage through the House of Lords. It now goes to the Commons where, unless the Sports Council gets tough, there will be another big row.

The idea, you will recall, is to ensure that the British public has access to great sporting occasions. Which can be a mixed blessing. Viewers might prefer to be spared the sight of another match involving a British football club and the word Uefa. One of Tim Collings' devices might help. I'll explain later.

The current debate is about the "unbundling" of broadcasting rights, whereby "live" TV coverage is disposed of separately from "secondary" rights (recorded highlights, and radio).

Denis Howell, Bernard Donoghue and George Thomson (who earlier defeated the Government over the eight "listed" events) pushed for compulsory unbundling. But they backed down at the last minute, because the Government offered a voluntary code of conduct for sports bodies and broadcasters. And asked the Sports Council to draw one up.

Howell told me he was hopeful, but asked: "Can we trust the buggers?" I'd like to know that, too. There are a lot of them about.

I HAVE a copy of the first draft. It has only 10 paragraphs but it could transform the present system, if the Sports Council is prepared to fight for it. It sets out three principles by which the code should operate.

as a minimum contribution for the development of its sport.

This should provoke some interesting chat with the Premier League, the Test and County Cricket Board and the Rugby Football League, none of which could be called transparent about where its TV money trickles to. Especially when they hear that the Sports Council chairman Rodney Walker wants to set the figure at about five per cent.

The code would be monitored by a panel chaired by the Sports Council. But has Walker the resolve to fight for an agreement?

He will never get a better chance to put the screws on Sports bodies and broadcasters now that if they don't have a working code before the Committee Stage in the House of Commons in six weeks, they will have statutory rules imposed or see the listed events added to. An unfavourable report from Walker at that stage and the Government will be defeated.

He told me yesterday: "We mean it. We intend to ensure that sport behaves responsibly. No one should be in any doubt that if they fail to seize the opportunity they will risk the imposition of more restrictive controls."

THIS is encouraging, and I hope it works. But I must confess that it is only half my problem. Having TV access to major British sporting events is all very well but it does not make them more desirable to watch.

Having endured Bayern Munich v Nottingham Forest, it is sometimes better not to know the truth. And do you remember those pictures of a tense, fearful Frank Bruno walking to the ring in Las Vegas, constantly crossing himself?

I am sorry I watched because it struck me that maybe Frank wasn't in the joke. What if the poor man actually believed he had a chance? I tried to turn off my set. I have a remote control but no self-control.

That is where Tim Collings comes in. He invented the "V-chip", which from next year will be part of every television set sold in North America. Broadcasters transmit a special signal with a built-in censorship scale, and viewers can programme their set to avoid horrific scenes.

An adolescent hand reaches for a bra-strap, or a chain-saw - and the picture is zapped. Just think. With careful planning we will never have to see again: an England middle-order collapse; the start of a grand prix - or the finish; cycle races; show jumping; Will Carling.

Venables calls Wright

David Leacey

THREE and a half years after playing his last England game under Graham Taylor, Mark Wright looks set to make his first appearance for Terry Venables. The 32-year-old Liverpool defender is likely to win his 44th cap in Wednesday's friendly at Wembley against Bulgaria. World Cup semi-finalists in 1994, because Venables has lost both of his regular centre-backs Tony Adams and Gary Pallister to injuries.

back's comfort in bringing the ball out of defence made this possible, but he did have Des Walker's pace and Terry Butcher's superior defensive qualities alongside him. Once Taylor had succeeded Robson, Wright's England career levelled out and then went into decline. He annoyed Taylor by making a late withdrawal from the 1992 European Championship with an injury when it was too late to bring in Adams as a replacement. A poor performance at the start of the following season, when England lost 1-0 to Spain in Santander, and Taylor never picked him again.

Wright's presence is a further reminder of the difficulty Venables faces, with the European Championship less than 12 weeks away, in injecting new blood of genuine international quality into his team. A larger-than-usual squad of 26 managers to make the talent look even more thinly spread.

BROTHERS IN ARMS

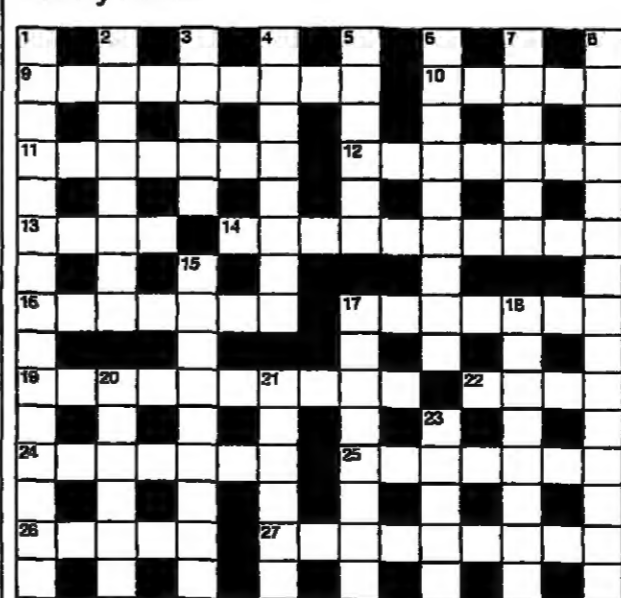


PHILIP NEVILLE (left), included with his brother Gary in Terry Venables's squad for the Bulgaria game next week, set up the possibility of brothers playing in the same England team for the first time since June 11 1970, when Bobby and Jack Charlton were in the side that beat Czechoslovakia 1-0 in Mexico to secure a World Cup quarter-final place. It was Jack's last of 35 caps; Bobby won one more, his 106th. They played 28 times together for England. The table below lists all brothers to have played for England.

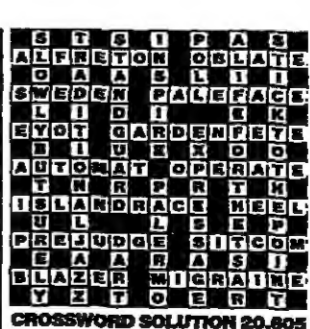
Player	Years
RAMBRIDGE	Ernest (1, 1876), Charlie (18, 1879-87) and Arthur (3, 1881-84)
CLEGG	Charles (1, 1875), William (2, 1873-79)
RAWSON	Herbert (1, 1875), William (2, 1875-77)
HERON	Hubert (5, 1873-78), Frank (1, 1878)
LYTTLETON	Allard (1, 1877), Edward (1, 1878)
CURSHAM	Arthur (6, 1876-83), Harry (8, 1880-84)
WARGREAVES	Fred (3, 1880-82), Jack (2, 1881)
WALTERS	Arthur M (8, 1885-90), Percy M (10, 1885-90)
DONSON	Alf (4, 1882-84), Charlie (1, 1888)
SHELTON	Alf (6, 1889-92), Charlie (1, 1888)
TOPHAM	Robert (2, 1883-84), Arthur (1, 1894)
PERRY	Charlie (3, 1880-83), Tom (1, 1898)
FORMAN	Frank (9, 1886-94), Fred (3, 1899)
WILSON	Charles P (2, 1864), Geoffrey P (2, 1900)
CORBETT	Bertie (1, 1901), Rex (1, 1903)
OSBORNE	Frank (4, 1822-26), Reg (1, 1827)
STEPHENSON	Clara (1, 1924), George (3, 1829-31)
SMITH	Jack (3, 1831), Sep (1, 1835)
CHARLTON	Bobby (106, 1868-70), Jack (35, 1868-70)

Guardian Crossword No 20,606

Set by Rufus



- Across**
- Not straight and with future too unsettled (3,2,4)
 - Capital footwear (10)
 - Play an exaggerated role in a covert organisation (7)
 - One is not bound to enjoy this (7)
 - Their union offers security (4,3,3)
 - Rigid forms of worship (4)
 - Lower speeds ordered on both sides of the river (7)
 - She puts on other people's clothes (7)
 - Peer in uniform (5)
 - They add grace to manners, perhaps (9)
- Down**
- Mate takes steps to provide communication between decks (9,8)
 - See great changes in overseas accommodation (8)
 - Join in a fortissimo number (5)
 - Breaking foot, totters a bit (8)
 - It's erected for the reception (5)
 - Matches in leagues (9)
 - A good man in the mine, though too old for the job nowadays (4,2)
 - Coach for trippers? (7,8)
 - An arm put round a pretty girl in game (9)
 - The author is not in (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,606

18 Straightening bandages (8)
20 Company show displeasure with failure to accept responsibility (3-3)
21 Order posted by a tyrant (8)
23 Waves on the pools (5)

Solution tomorrow

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It's depressing that the fans have such a Pavlovian response to comebacks. While it's natural to want to see a favourite long-lost group again, one must question the sanity of people who would fork out £100 for a ticket, or £25 for the sub-standard Beatles Anthology 1. Caroline Sullivan on the comeback trail